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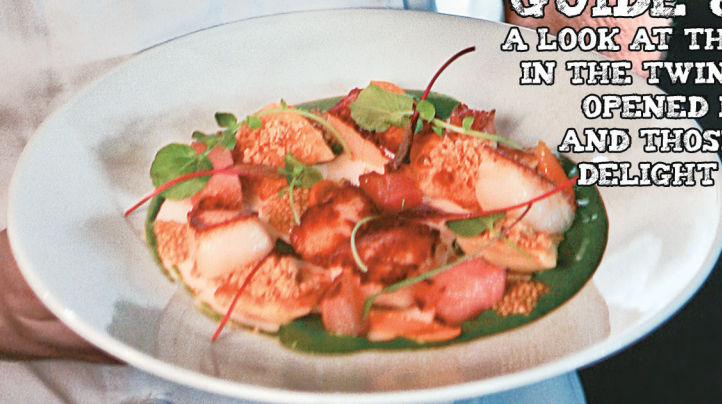
**& PREVIEW**

# 51

**RESTAURANTS!**

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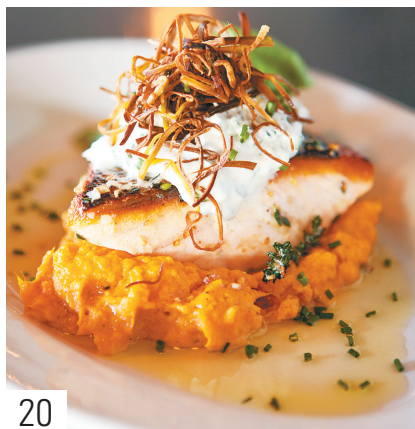
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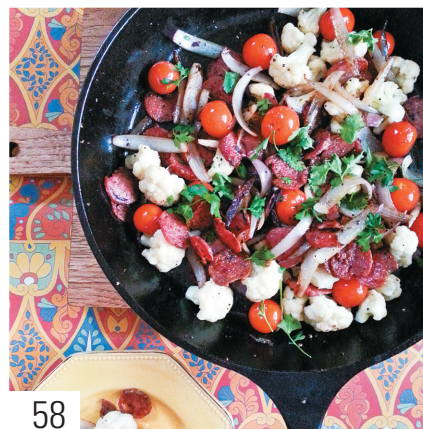


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## ON THE COVER

The cover of our first New Restaurant Guide & Preview features Chef Jim Christiansen of the brand new UNION in Minneapolis. Lavender is pleased and proud to keep you informed of the emerging and established cuisine and talent in our restaurant scene. Photo by Mike Hnida

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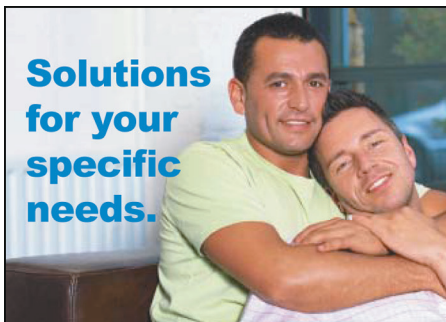
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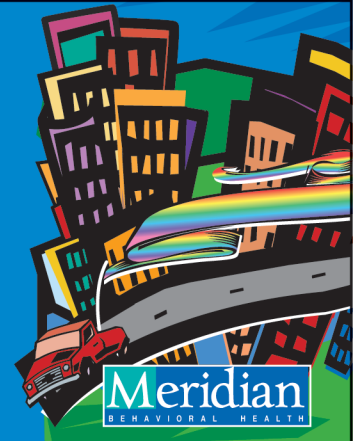
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WITH ALL the talk of the freedom to marry, I can't help but reflect on Lavender's wedding issues. This time last year, I was working on the first comprehensive wedding issue of my career. I was a basketcase over it. Everything in my life was about the wedding issue...wedding issue this, wedding issue that, I can't...because of the wedding issue. I was pretty much a bride of a weddingless wedding. All things had to be considered: fashion, venues, caterers, bakers, accessories, etiquette, invitations, jewelry, politics, bars, photography, and family. The magazine was reorganized to span the different facets of weddings: Thinking, Planning, Making, Dressing, Celebrating, and Loving. The usual columns and coverage are only online for these issues, leaving the entire editorial space of the magazine to be all about weddings. I wanted to reinvent the wheel for this community; everything had to be considered.

We won awards for that first wedding issue. It was popular with readers and advertisers. One of my most cherished website comments came from that labor of love:

"Thank you for this issue! Seriously, perfect timing! My partner of nearly three years and I are having a commitment ceremony in May. Honestly, I have had a really hard time with the fact that it is not recognized legally, and it has been stealing my thunder. My friends (mostly straight) and family seem more excited than I am, and I believe it is for the simple fact that I feel like I'm having a dress-up day, not my wedding. My family is amazing and supportive, and all of my best friends are traveling here for the ceremony, and I'm ready to get excited! I guess my real reason for writing, is to say how wonderful and validating it is to see other same sex couples getting married, and to be reminded that it is not about the haters, it's about us, and how much we love each other." -Terra G.

While the articles, resources, marketplaces, and how-to guides in each wedding issue are important, my favorite section has been the Real Weddings section. This is where we showcase couples from our own community who commit to each other and throw a party for their friends and family to celebrate their love with them. Like Terra said in her comment above, it's validating to see others doing what you want to do. I want people to see themselves in our pages...and the Real Weddings are the best way to do that.

We now publish two wedding issues a year; one in Spring for the warmer months and one in Fall for the colder ones. Very distinct styles and themes are necessary for very distinct seasons in Minnesota. That said, I am convinced that the subject of weddings deserves two issues (out of 26 a year) for a community that has been underrepresented in the industry. Within a week of each of the wedding issues going to press, I've been contacted by someone asking if they could get a wedding into our Real Weddings section. We need two of them to keep up with the rate with which you're tying the knot.

We need two of them to keep the GLBT community in front of the wedding industry as a reminder that this community matters,

regardless of the legal status of the commitments. We need two wedding issues in order to remind the public twice a year that two women or two men on a cover—who are clearly getting married—are visions that society needs to get used to; marriage may not be legal yet, but that's definitely not stopping the people in our pages. And, we made sure to take the opportunity to leverage the fact that we had thousands and thousands of fall wedding issues on stands throughout the state the days leading up to Election Day that said "VOTE NO." That was a pretty dang good reason to have two wedding issues, if I say so myself.

So, this year, I encourage you to participate in our wedding issues. If you've been married in the past year, please consider sending us photos of your wedding for the Real Weddings section (the specifics are on our website). If you have a company or service that is a part of the wedding industry, consider advertising in the issues to tell our readers that you are supportive and welcoming of our weddings and our business. Show me your same-sex wedding products in case I want to share them with the community. Send your love stories to me for the Lavender Love section, so we can read about your relationships. This is your community. This is your publication. These are your weddings.

This is the year when it's crucial to show our legislators that marriage matters to this community. I pledge to do my part.

With love,

Andy □





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## Musings of a Facebook Fan

I LIKE Facebook. I use Facebook. I find ideas, images, news—friends—and have learned much that makes me continually ponder the nature of the universe.

I read recently that the LDS Church (Mormons) together with the National Association of Evangelicals and the Southern Baptist Convention, filed *amicus curae* briefs with the US Supreme Court asking that the justices ignore the growing scientific evidence that same-sex parents are equally as qualified as opposite-sex parents to raise children.

From *US vs. Windsor*: “By their nature, such policy questions cannot be definitively answered by science, professional opinion, or legal reasoning alone,” and that therefore, “nothing in the Constitution requires [government] to accept as truth the most advanced and sophisticated [scientific] opinion.”

Facebook has opened doors to images and articles revealing the amazing spectrum of our planet’s plants and animals, their riot of shapes, colors, sounds and, behaviors that burst the confines of man’s religious dictates.

One image displayed forty-one fantastic mushrooms, frilled, gilled and gilded; another, leafy and weedie sea dragons, sea horse

cousins; delicate snails with lavender bodies and shells; *Calenea* majors, or flying duck orchids. I’ve learned that birds, seals, and butterflies use stars as their compasses, that humble dung beetles navigate by the Milky Way. Beyond our modest planet, scientists have located the largest object in the observable universe—a group of 73 quasars four billion light years across.

The more I glimpse of the infinite variety about us, the harder it is to listen to those claiming to know God’s will. No wonder girls and women today under various religious regimes are literally dying for an education—knowledge can lead to power and freedom from superstition and cant.

Disregard science? The universe *is* science. Human belief systems can, by nature, be only collections of fragments limited mortal minds glimpse of the whole, too often used to dominate, disrupt, and control.

I would not lay down my life for an orchid or lavender snail, but I believe we are equal in the eye of the creative force, and although humankind enjoys a transitory dominion over Earth, Earth was never made to be under our collective thumb. We would be better served guided by stars and the Milky Way than divisive dogmas. □



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## QUEER WOMYNS NIGHT OUT - FEBRUARY 9, 2013



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#### MINNEAPOLIS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL - TWENTIETH YEAR

From February 28 through March 17, the Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival will offer a unique collection of films carefully chosen with an eye for quality and providing something for everyone. The MPLSJFF endeavors to present the best feature films, documentaries and shorts from around the world on themes of Jewish culture and identity. Over 175 films were screened but the Film Review Committee and Film Festival staff, the final choices distilled to form the amazing 2013 program. For information on films, and schedules, visit [www.sabesjcc.org](http://www.sabesjcc.org).

#### MINNESOTA FREEDOM BAND 30TH YEAR CONCERT

"From Russia with Love" marks the Minnesota Freedom Band's Thirtieth Anniversary Concert. Be at The Ritz Theatre in Minneapolis for the March 10 Sunday matinee to revel in pieces by the Russian masters: Shostakovich, Borodin, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Kabalevsky, Mussorgsky, and Prokofiev. There will be a cash bar and food concession in the front reception area, and a pre-concert social reception at 1:30PM. For more information and tickets visit [www.mnfreedomband.org](http://www.mnfreedomband.org) or check the Band's Facebook site.

#### GREATER TUNA'S COMING - GO FISH!

Greater Tuna is a comedy about the third smallest town in Texas and its crazy citizens. Over the course of one day, through the programming at local radio station OKKK, from on-air to sign-off, you meet twenty-one of Tuna's eccentric citizens, all played by actors Nick Kunz and John Pigate, portraying men, women, children, and animals with over forty-seven costume changes. Tickets are \$25 (includes dinner). This is a fundraiser for MCC General Conference. 5PM Silent Auction, inner at 5:30PM, show 7PM. Order tickets at [www.agcmcc.org](http://www.agcmcc.org).

#### SHADES OF YELLOW (SOY) - HMONG GLBT

Join in the 9th Annual SOY New Year Mas-QUEERade and celebrate ten years of SOY, empowering Hmong/Asian Pacific Islander LGBTQ. A nonprofit organization working to provide support, education, advocacy, and leadership development to Hmong LGBTQ, SOY is the only Hmong LGBTQ organization in the world, reaching out online to other Hmong LGBTQ. March 2, 5:30-9:30. DS Event Center, 415 Pascal St. N, St. Paul. Visit on Facebook or <http://sny3013.eventbrite.com>.

#### FUR FLEE VI WITH THE NORTH COUNTRY BEARS

February 28 - March 3 heralds the "Best Value Bear Event in the U.S.!" A fabulous repeat of last year's off-the-hook pool party and light show. Two beer busts at local bars, Saturday dance party with open bar and midnight pizza, afternoon bearoake pool party and lunch and much, much more, including Alpine Slide at Spirit Mountain and 200+ bears. Host Hotel: Barkers Island Inn, 300 Marina Drive, Superior, WI. To book, must call and mention "North Country Bears." Visit [www.facebook.com/events/433233683391445/](http://www.facebook.com/events/433233683391445/)

#### BI THE WAY AND SISTER MARY DOUBLE FEATURE

OUT Twin Cities Film Festival presents a Double Feature (movie night) on Sunday, February 24 at 6PM. Bi The Way, a film by Brittany Blockman and Josephine Decker, and Sister Mary, by Scott Grenke (and starring ANT, James Vallo, Bruce Vilanch and Judy Tenuta), will be co-presented by Bisexual Organizing Project at the Chatterbox Pub, 800 Cleveland Ave. S. St. Paul. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/events/314699428631284/](http://www.facebook.com/events/314699428631284/) □





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Buzzer. Photo by Michal Daniel

### **BABE LINCOLN AND THE VAJAZZLED BADGE OF COURAGE**

Through Mar. 9

Brave New Workshop, 824 Hennepin Av., Mpls.  
(612) 332-6620

[www.bravenewworkshop.com](http://www.bravenewworkshop.com)

Not since the 1990s has the region's premiere comedy theater created a fully feminist revue. Long overdue, I'm thrilled to report that *Babe Lincoln* is terrific. Brave New Workshop veterans, Lauren Anderson and Katy McEwen, as directed by McEwen's husband, Caleb, deliver the laughs while making us consider how women fit and don't fit into current day American society. The tone is light but you end up walking out with rich food for thought.

There's a delicious spoof of Adele singing on a *Sesame Street* episode and depressing the muppets. GI Joe "cannot commit" because his first love is America. GOP candidates who make light of rape are rightly ridiculed. Hillary Clinton is celebrated for her pant suits. And the *Vajazzled* term in the title has to do with a clothing line specifically made for the female anatomy and I'll let you wonder about that until you actually see the show.

There are two sections that especially impact:

1. The actresses conduct what they call a "social experiment" where they try to make men cry with visuals from father/son movies, sports movies, and endearing animals. It's hilarious and fascinating. Different audiences will respond differently.

2. A remembrance of suffragists, Lucy Barnes and Alice Paul, who truly suffered to get women the vote. Anderson and McEwen then take contemporary American women to task who squander that right and the citizenship it confers.

Peter Guertin's music direction and Erin Sheppard's chore-

ography add bounce and funk to this vibrant production. Not to be missed.

### **BUZZER**

Through Mar. 3

Guthrie Theater's Dowling Studio, 818 So. 2nd. St., Mpls.  
(612) 377-2224

[www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)

Tracey Scott Wilson's daring drama turns racial stereotypes on their heads. The Pillsbury House production was selected as part of the Guthrie's inclusion of exceptional work by smaller local theaters. A black attorney and his white significant other set up housekeeping in his old rough neighborhood, which compels her to deal with reverse-racism and sexism. The plot thickens with a white buddy who invades their life with his mediocrity. Namir Smallwood, Sara Richardson, and Hugh Kennedy reprise their roles directed by Marion McClinton, and the buzz has it that there are some interesting new developments in the new production.



Girl Shorts. Photo by Richard Fleischman

### **GIRL SHORTS**

Through Mar. 3

Lowry Lab, 350 St. Peter St.,  
St. Paul  
(612) 721-1186

[www.theatreunbound.com](http://www.theatreunbound.com)

Great Britain's Caryl Churchill is regarded by many as the greatest living female playwright, so it's a treat when even one of her short plays is produced. When you attend the evening of Theatre Unbound's short plays by women showcase, you'll see Churchill's *The Judge's Wife*. Director Maggie Scanlan says, "[It] concerns the heavy sentencing of a political would-be terrorist—possibly the IRA, we never know—by an extreme right-wing judge. The judge's wife has a speech to her sister about how the judge was actually a martyr to liberal change; that he was acting like an extreme conservative, undercover as it were, in order to draw people's attention to the absurdity and danger of the positions espoused by the conservatives." Scanlan compares the play's style to that of Harold Pinter and renegade gay writer Jean Genet.

Stephen Houtz, who plays the judge, is a long-time Churchill lover and finds his role to be "a truly complicated character who we don't understand until the play is over, and that is a nice challenge in such a short play." Other stellar female playwrights represented are Wendy "Pulitzer Prize-winner" Wasserstein, iconic lesbian feminist Carolyn Gage, and local luminaries Anne Bertram and Heather C. Brady. Dixie Treichel does sound design.

Continued on page 18 ➔



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*—Ella Taylor, NPR*



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*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.* Photo by Dan Norman

### THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

Through Mar. 2

Red Eye Theater, 15 W. 14th St., Mpls.

(800) 838-3006

[www.walkingshadowcompany.org](http://www.walkingshadowcompany.org)

John Heimbuch's new play, based on Washington Irving's story, has been shaped with input from director Jon Ferguson and three actors with an eye to the culture of fear that we have been living under for over a decade now. Hence, it employs the tone and style of spectral silent film classics like *Nosferatu* and *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*. Heimbuch says Ferguson has "imagined Sleepy Hollow as a place where inhabitants are frightened so often that terror has simply become their normal state."

Heimbuch amplifies, "We pay particular attention to the role of fear and ambition in the love triangle between Ichabod Crane, Katrina van Tassel, and Brom Bones. The central question for these characters is 'How do I win the person I love?' And their most common approach is to manipulate each other, generally through fear and enticement." Ryan Lear, Joanna Harmon (who wowed us in TRP's *Summer and Smoke* recently), and Brant Miller play that love triangle.

### LINCOLN

area movie theaters

When playwright Tony Kushner was being celebrated at and writing *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide...* for the Guthrie Theater three and a half years ago, he was also writing the *Lincoln* screenplay. Though the play in Minneapolis may have suffered for it, the Steven Spielberg film is nothing less than a masterpiece and Kushner deserves much of the credit.

There are some who dispute certain aspects of the script and the film, but there has never been a historical or biographical film that has not been disputed. I'm old enough to recall when director Franklin J. Schaffner's *Patton* (1970 Best Picture Oscar-winner) was hotly debated in media and in diners, as was his even superior biopic the following year, *Nicholas and Alexandra* (Best Picture Oscar-nominee robbed by *The French Connection*). But both, as

*Lincoln* I'm sure shall, have survived the test of time beautifully.

Kushner's *Lincoln* is a triumph of language. There is scrupulous integrity to vocal cadences, grammar specific to the 1860s, and regional rhythms. All these are matched with his intensely detailed attention to the byzantine political maneuvering and emotional cyclones surrounding efforts to pass the 13th Amendment that would end slavery. Language is matched to age, race, and experience in the opening scene in which two young white Union soldiers and two black Union soldiers express themselves in distinctly different ways to the President.

Tommy Lee Jones as Pennsylvania Senator Thaddeus Stevens fascinates with dialogue that reflects his extraordinary position in American politics, not to mention his purism. You can feel the abolitionist's driving force and his withering, nimble use of verbal attack on any who would cross his path. Stevens led the Radical Republican faction of Lincoln's own Republican Party.

Jones's final scene in the film brings a twinkle to the eye.

It's also fabulous to see Hal Holbrook as Preston Blair. Oh, to age with the wisdom that Holbrook has! He has also given a profound performance in another recent film,

Gus Van Sant's *Promised Land*, a compelling cautionary tale about fracking. Holbrook is the male counterpart to Vanessa Redgrave.

Do I really need to say how magnificent Daniel Day Lewis is as Lincoln? It may go down in history as the most praised performance ever. Indeed, it's off the charts. Though I still feel Lewis is just as great in *There Will Be Blood* and I still hold that had John Hawkes been nominated for *The Sessions*, Lewis would have had real Oscar competition. But alas, Hawkes, as the Strib's Colin Covert has rightly pointed out, was robbed. Ironically, the superb Hawkes plays Colonel Robert Latham in *Lincoln*.

Kushner is loved for his consistently well-crafted representations of women. Sally Field's Mary Todd Lincoln is not some cut-out doll of a madwoman stereotype. With succinct language and piercing emotions, Fields conveys that there is reason—and perhaps some justification—for her resentment and obsessions. Of course, leaders and their spouses always have and likely always will have to sacrifice the private hopes that those of us who do not have such power need not renounce. At her side throughout is her *confidante* and attendant, Elizabeth Keckley, played seamlessly by Gloria Reuben.

Blair's daughter, Elizabeth, is played with lovely affection by Julie White. Elizabeth Marvel's Mrs. Jolly, a petitioner, is priceless. Of course, terrific small performances crackle throughout the Spielberg canon, but not as fully, richly, and specifically as in *Lincoln*. His films are known, even defined and/or dismissed by some, by their broad strokes. Some say he lacks subtlety.

Indeed, *E.T.*, *The Color Purple*, *Schindler's List*, and the under-rated *Empire of the Sun*, are sweeping epics that almost overwhelm with their scope at times. That's one of the reasons we love them. But with *Lincoln*, Spielberg, with Kushner's script as his anchor, is compelled to deal with nuance and simultaneously give us the sense of historical sweep he's loved for. We saw the Spielberg/Kushner test run with the riveting *Munich* in 2005, which was rightly nominated for the Best Picture Oscar. With *Lincoln*, they've honed their skills, and have ended up with a masterful epic for the ages. □



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2013

# NEW RESTAURANT GUIDE

## & PREVIEW

BY JOY SUMMERS

You're going to want to grab a snack. We're thrilled to present our very first new restaurant guide! You may have noticed that through the Slice column we here at *Lavender Magazine* HQ have been working hard to bring you the tastiest bites to be found around town. In the following pages we have gathered the best new restaurants of 2012, as well as a few that have already opened this year. Plus, we have a special sneak peek at what's to come. So, you see, this isn't the sort of thing to read on an empty stomach. Please settle in; enjoy a slice of the Cities' restaurant scene.

STARTING ON PAGE

22

Reviews



Profiled in Lavender



News Bites





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Day in, day out, for our decade of existence, we have wished for respect, equality, dignity and simple human rights for our beloved GLBT community. Keep the flags waving and sure enough, the gay marriage issue in Minnesota might hopefully just be part of our past.

In Hell, we'll keep preaching to the blind. In Heaven, we'll keep reaching out to folks in high places. And when you're finally ready for that ceremony, wedding cake or reception, we'll be oh-so-ready for you... even two of our *owners* are licensed clergy able to perform wedding ceremonies.

—The owners and employees of Hell's Kitchen and Angel Food Bakery



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## Birchwood Café Expansion: Preview

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612.722.4474 / [www.birchwoodcafe.com](http://www.birchwoodcafe.com)

## Birdhouse

Stewart and Heidi Woodman's new restaurant has a more casual vibe than their original Heidi's with a menu focused on restorative, fresh foods.

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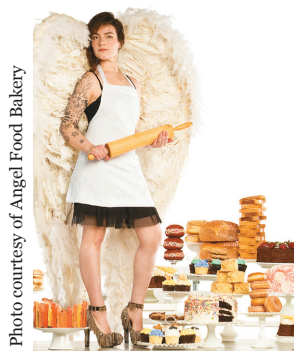


Photo courtesy of Angel Food Bakery

The ethereal, white skyway space is a balance to the windowless sister business Hell's Kitchen down below. This bakery of-

fers all the sugary decadence a sweet tooth could ask for with delicious donuts, craveable cupcakes, breads, fresh-brewed coffee, cookies, stunning wedding creations, and more. Also, they have the famous Hell's Kitchen peanut butter and sausage bread. Heaven on a plate.

86 S. 9th St., Minneapolis

612.238.1435 / [www.angelfoodmn.com](http://www.angelfoodmn.com)



Photo by Hubert Bonnet



## BLUE DOOR PUB-LONGFELLOW

Compared to the original, the space is expansive. In reality, it's a comfy new neighborhood spot. There's a communal wood table referred to as the "long fellow" for larger groups (which is impossible in the original). However, they're sticking to what they know and we love, great burgers and a serious selection of craft beers. Only now, like the space, it's expanded.

3448 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis / [www.thebdp.com](http://www.thebdp.com)



# NEW RESTAURANT GUIDE & PREVIEW

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE  
IN LAVENDER ISSUE 438

**Butcher & the Boar**

Butcher & the Boar is a new restaurant in the North Loop neighborhood. The chef, Jack Riebel, is a former chef at the nationally lauded Travail Kitchen and Amusements in Robbinsdale. Like that kitchen, the team that they've assembled cooks collaboratively.

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## Butcher & the Boar

The unfussy food is full of nostalgic flavors with a refined, perfect Peter Botcher twist. Botcher is chef Jack Riebel's right-hand man. Riebel jokes that Peter's the butcher and he's the bore (hardly). Botcher is an expert sausage-maker. Raised outside of Winona, he wears his German heritage with great pride. Churning out velvet-textured turkey liver Braunschweiger, smoked pork jowl that's used in place of bacon, garlicky rich venison summer sausage, fat-studded beef sausage spiked with cumin, paprika and garlic, with a faint, herby note from something he won't tell me about. All the meat is sourced from farmers who believe that the quality of the meat is directly linked to the care of the animal. All the beef is grassfed, which has a bad rap for flavor. People say that it's too lean, but the gorgeous fat, glistening off a smoked beef shortrib that we sampled was impressive with the luxurious mouth feel – not to mention flavor. Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com). 1121 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis 612.238.8888 [www.butcherandtheboar.com](http://www.butcherandtheboar.com)

Dining

## BOROUGH & PARLOUR

by Joy Summers

### BOROUGH & PARLOUR

The tentative first displays of affection are so raw, bare, thrilling. Love is so precious, tender and fraught with insecurity. If you've loved, you've lost. Is it worth the possible pain to try to start a new story again, in the hope that this time will bring your happy ending?



I took a sharp, quick breath. Could this be? The room is a comfortable mixture of wood floors; one wood wall mixed with the metal and brick that dominate décor in this part of the North Loop neighborhood. There are little winks and nods, like the cheese grater light fixtures and the steampunk-style beer taps. The room is cozy and open; refined, but never stuffy. The food is serious...and seriously fun. The chefs are Tyler Shipton and Nick O'Leary, who met while working at the nationally lauded Travail Kitchen and Amusements in Robbinsdale. Like that kitchen, the team that they've assembled cooks collaboratively.



Of the collection in the kitchen behind this new hot spot. (Below and left) Dining areas. (Opposite page) Grass-fed beef tartare. Photos by Robert Bostrom



Under the soft lighting and flickering candlelight, you're hard pressed not to look your romantic best. The plates are elegant. A potato soup arrives in a wide, deep bowl. Crispy fried fingerling potato chips are topped with a dusting of snowy powder and a couple of shaves of black truffle. The server pours a creamy, rich broth over it. The first flavor to hit the tongue is an unexpected sweet tartness, and then the bulb broth pours over the palate, broken up by the crunchy bites of chips. Each sip is light with a champagne effervescence. A steak entrée is a similar balance of hearty and light. The perfectly seasoned grassfed beef is served sliced and flanked by a crispy bread and herb crust, flaking away into tender bites, drawn through a ruby-colored beet sauce beneath a frothy puff of foam, with apples, dill, caraway and a whisp

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE IN LAVENDER ISSUE 461

## BOROUGH & PARLOUR

When the doors opened at Borough, I took a sharp, quick breath. Could this be? The room is a comfortable mixture of wood floors; one wood wall mixed with the metal and brick that dominate décor in this part of the North Loop neighborhood. There are little winks and nods, like the cheese grater light fixtures and the steampunk-style beer taps. The room is cozy and open; refined, but never stuffy. The food is serious...and seriously fun. The chefs are Tyler Shipton and Nick O'Leary, who met while working at the nationally lauded Travail Kitchen and Amusements in Robbinsdale. Like that kitchen, the team that they've assembled cooks collaboratively. Downstairs at Parlour, Jesse Held hopes to create the first mash-up of craft cocktail and dive bar. Gone are the twenty-minute wait times between ordering and drinking. The space and staff are completely lacking in pretention. This is meant to be a neighborhood joint and already they are building a list of regulars. Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com). 730 N. Washington Ave., Minneapolis / 612.354.3135 / [www.boroughmpls.com](http://www.boroughmpls.com)



### NEWS BITES

#### BRODERS' WINE BAR: Preview

Broders' Cucina Italiana and Broders' Pasta Bar will welcome another into the little empire along 50th Street into the former Pierre's Bistro space. 2221 W. 50th St., Minneapolis

#### BURCH STEAK: Just Opened

James Beard Award winner, Chef Isaac Becker, owner of 112 Eatery and Bar La Grassa, has opened his newest venture and it's a double hitter: steakhouse upstairs and a pizza cafe downstairs with beer, wine, and cocktails. Intersection of Hennepin and Franklin Ave., Minneapolis



NEW  
RESTAURANT  
GUIDE  
& PREVIEW

## COLOSSAL CAFÉ ST. PAUL

The name was meant to be ironic for the first location: a tiny, but beloved, spot in Minneapolis. Their St. Paul restaurant is neither huge nor small. It's a comfortable neighborhood haunt serving scratch food in the morning, noon, and night. The yeasted pancakes are the stuff of legend while the pork sandwich served at dinner (with a pint of craft brew) is working its way into the legend book.

2315 Como Ave., St. Paul / 651.797.4027 / [www.colossalcafe.com](http://www.colossalcafe.com)



Photo by Mike Hinda

### NEWS BITES



## Butter

This sweet little bakery has found a new home at the base of a new building with plenty of early morning sunshine to pair with those pastries and scones.

3700 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis  
612.521.7401  
[www.butterbakerycafe.com](http://www.butterbakerycafe.com)

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE IN LAVENDER ISSUE 452

## Café Maude at Loring Park



Café Maude mixes the historically boho Loring Park vibe with their proven formula of killer cocktails, comfort food with a dash of live music, and lands softly in their new space with an ease that feels like they've been there for much longer than the last few weeks. The tapestry fabric wrapping around the top of the bar and the gold velvet backs on some of the booths harkens back to the the Loring Bar. There's space for live music and plenty of comfortable seating. It's definitely got that same sophisticated, comfortable Maude vibe. The cocktails and menu also have that same artisan flavor because they're being overseen by the same talented folks who work at the original [South Minneapolis] location. Chef Matthew Kempf has been splitting his time between the two locations, but here he was given free reign over the creation.

Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com).  
1612 Harmon Place, Minneapolis / 612.767.9080  
[www.cafemaudeatloring.com](http://www.cafemaudeatloring.com)



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# NEW RESTAURANT GUIDE & PREVIEW

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE IN LAVENDER ISSUE 461



## Devil's Advocate

The food is dominated by balls. Meatballs with worldly seasonings paired with inspired sides. The original chef couldn't quite find the groove, but the staff in place now is having some fun—and it's evident on the plate. The traditional meatballs have a nice amount of salt in them, which makes an eater eagerly reach for one of their beers. In a rich tomato sauce, they taste like someone's nonna spent hours fussing over them. The falafel is dense, smooth in texture, and served alongside some fregola (a textural sibling to couscous) mixed with fresh mint; it's a light, refreshing bite. The way Chef Erik Forsberg sees it, the flavor options are endless. On our visit, they were talking about possibly doing a banh mi style meatball. What sounds like a gimmick tastes like a good idea. These small, easy-to-eat bites of food are just begging for a beer. They have over 60 taps and a staff well-educated in their brews. They will be doing many beer dinners, where real aficionados can sip and eat a more refined menu.

Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com).

89 S. 10th St., Minneapolis / 612.843.2260

[www.devilsadvocatebar.com](http://www.devilsadvocatebar.com)

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE IN LAVENDER ISSUE 454



## Eat Shop Kitchen & Bar

From Plymouth emerges a new restaurant, Eat Shop. From inside this kitchen comes chef-driven, scratch cooking. Everything about their approach is straightforward. The space is large with little touches of whimsy. There's a silhouette of a pig with a balloon tied around his middle above one large corner booth, stacks of wine bottles, and a trail of mismatched plates adorning the wall next to the kitchen. There is also a screen stretched over part of the dining room playing a loop of food movies and classic Julia Child episodes. The team that put this place together includes the culinary forces of Chef Jeff Anderson as well as Michael Larson has extensive experience in the restaurant business, balanced with the fresh enthusiasm of doing it all for themselves for the first time. No matter the occasion, if you're a fan of comfortable surroundings, I know a great spot out in Plymouth that I think you'd like to see.

Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com).

16605 County Road 24, Plymouth / 763.270.5929

[www.theeatshop.com](http://www.theeatshop.com)

Photo by Hubert Bonnet



## EAT STREET SOCIAL

This swank spot had the liquorati swooning when they first opened the doors. The bar was set up by master barmen Nick Kosevich and Ira Kaplowiz, the dapper dudes behind Bittercube Bitters. They are well known by those who know craft cocktails. They hired an array of great drink mixers to serve up some of the best cocktails in town. The restaurant comes from the same team who run Northeast Social. It has the same convivial atmosphere and the menu boasts favorite dishes like pastas, a hearty burger, and fried calamari.

18 West 26th St., Minneapolis / 612.767.6850

[www.eatstreetsocial.com](http://www.eatstreetsocial.com)

## ELI'S EAST

Like the original Eli's, this neighbor-hood gem has a rotating board of specials in addition to their menu of favorites like the famous Eli's mac and cheese and a perfectly cooked burger. (The wings are always a hit.) They have expanded the offerings a bit with memorable dishes like their spin on coq au vin. Be certain to also save a little liver room for a couple of cocktails. These guys know how to mix a beautiful beverage. Big maroon booths and a lot of wood make for an intimate, masculine space while the odd triangular shape keeps the interior interesting. 815 East Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis / 612.331.0031



Photo by Keane Amdahl



# NEW RESTAURANT GUIDE & PREVIEW

## NEWS BITES

### Figlio

Like so many before it, Figlio broke up, moved out of Uptown, and into the Suburbs. Kaskaid Hospitality takes the brand over from Parasole and brings back some old favorites along with new dishes in the spirit of the iconic restaurant original.

5331 West 16th St., St. Louis Park  
952.345.2400 / [www.figlio.com](http://www.figlio.com)

### French Hen

The former Bon Vie space (they moved down the street into A Piece of Cake) has been refreshed and replaced with another neighborhood spot for breakfast, brunch, and lunch.

518 Selby Ave., St. Paul / 651.222.6201  
[www.frenchhencafe.com](http://www.frenchhencafe.com)

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE  
IN LAVENDER ISSUE 455

### Fika



Scandinavian food is sweeping the globe, leading the current culinary trends with locally sourced, clean flavors. Dazzle your friends and family with the food from a new restaurant serving dishes directly on

this cutting edge of this modern cuisine at the American Swedish Institute. On the surface, this might not sound too sexy, but once you see what the ASI has to offer, you'll know exactly what I mean. It's beautiful. It's spacious. It has scenic views and a gorgeous outdoor courtyard, but most importantly, it has the food. ASI's Fika (pronounced Fee-ka) is being all but worshiped by local area critics.

— Keane Amdahl

Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com).  
2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis / 612.871.4907  
[www.asimn.org/visit/cafe](http://www.asimn.org/visit/cafe)



Photo by Andy Lien

## FOXY FALAFEL

This adorable little restaurant space struggled to find the right fit, until Miss Foxy came along and added her DIY charm and created a cozy, homey space. Even more importantly, she filled the room with the warm scents of her singularly wonderful falafel. If you haven't tasted one of her crusty, tender fritters, you owe it to your tastebuds to get right over there now. In addition to her originally flavored fritters, the beet and the curry flavors, she's expanded her offerings to tender turkey shawarma, chicken gyros, and the most delectable gluten-free baked goods. Serving wine and beer, it's a great spot for a quick lunch, easy-on-the wallet date night, or weekend brunch. Foxy Falafel dazzles diners without ever getting fussy. This is just some great, comforting food in a pretty and casual environment. This glass slipper fits just right.

791 Raymond Ave., St. Paul / 651.888.2255 / [www.foxyfalafel.com](http://www.foxyfalafel.com)



NEW  
RESTAURANT  
GUIDE  
& PREVIEW



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

## GRAY HOUSE

Located just off Lyndale Avenue on Lake Street, this restaurant space has had a few tenants, but it seems like The Gray House is the first to finally fit. Chef Ian Gray is making everything from scratch, like the buttery little cracker bites in the bread basket to the scratch-made pasta. The dishes are American comforts like roasted chicken with polenta, given a little chef-y goose. The wine list is well-selected as is the collection of craft beers. A welcome neighborhood bistro perfect for a couple of pints after work or a cozy date night.  
610 West Lake St., Minneapolis / 612.823.4338  
[www.thegrayhouseeats.com](http://www.thegrayhouseeats.com)



Photos by Shelly Mosman



## GEORGE & THE DRAGON

Modeled after an English Public House (or pub), George and the Dragon serve approachable and delicious food for the whole family. The menu is stacked with great homemade grub like burgers, bangers and mash, and curry. There's even a weekend brunch. Since opening, the restaurant has become a neighborhood gathering point for many of the nearby young families and a great spot to grab a couple of pints or a glass of wine with friends. Somehow they knew that this was exactly what the neighborhood needed.  
813 West 50th St., Minneapolis / 612.208.1047  
[www.ganddpub.com](http://www.ganddpub.com)



### NEWS BITES

#### Gastrotruck: Preview

Another food truck finds a permanent home with a planned green Northeast eatery that will grow as much as 50% of their own produce. A fast-casual, affordable space expected in fall of 2013.  
Northeast, Minneapolis / [www.gastrotruck.mobi](http://www.gastrotruck.mobi)

#### Hello Pizza: Preview

A new pizza spot from the owners from the wildly successful Pizzeria Lola.  
3904 Sunnyside Rd., Edina







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# NEW RESTAURANT GUIDE & PREVIEW

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE  
IN LAVENDER ISSUE 444



## The Left Handed Cook

It takes a special kind of crazy to want to pick up from L.A., where you've established a career and life for yourself, plop down in the middle of a city that you've never lived in, and open up a business. Thankfully, Thomas Kim and Kat Melgaard are just the right kind of crazy. Tiring of the smog, the traffic, and the general high cost of living, they traded in the city of angels for the Minneapolis. The concept of The Left Handed Cook is revolutionary for the Midtown Global Market place. The menu sounds like a long list of the food that I know chefs love to eat in their off hours. It's all at once gourmet, but full of comfort food. It's full of Asian accents, but entirely at home in the Midwest. While Kim mans the food, Melgaard manages the service aspect. Her creative eye and punk-DIY aesthetic brings a unique look to The Left Handed Cook. She adds genius little touches like Mason jars filled with vegetable oil and pictures placed inside. They made for great centerpieces at their opening party. Plastic cups were adorned with beads that spelled out helpful suggestions like, "Eat more." She's a party-throwing genius. Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com). 920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis 612.208.0428



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

## ICE HOUSE

When word got out that the owners of Be'Wicked were involved in the opening of a rocking new music venue with an all-day deli case and a Johnny Michaels-designed cocktail list, it all seemed like so many variables. How could all those plates be kept perfectly spinning? But spin and rock they certainly do. The cocktails are divine, with both full-sized and modest sips, the food is filled with delicious dishes from modest noshes to full meal options (and a truly wonderful sandwich selection). All this, in addition to being a great venue to catch some head bobbing music. Oh, and brunch! Did you know they do brunch with what might be the best bloody mary in the Twin Cities? Yup, they do it all.

25285 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis / 612.276.6523 / [www.icehouseempls.com](http://www.icehouseempls.com)



Photo courtesy of The Hole

## THE HOLE

This is not your average sports bar. Yes, the beers are icy cold and the TVs ample, but there's more to it than just that. The bar is stocked beyond the Bud Light and what's coming out of the kitchen is worth a gander. It's got pizzas, burgers, and wings, but the food here is prepared by an actual chef who has a fine dining background. That means that these are some inventive, deliciously prepared wings and poppers.

2501 SE University Ave., Minneapolis / 612.331.7474

[www.theholesportslounge.com](http://www.theholesportslounge.com)

## THE KENWOOD

Don Saunders's new neighborhood darling has found its way into the hearts of those who live nearby as well as those looking for a little refined dining in a none-too-stuffy room. From the plaid cloth-papered walls to the equestrian decor to the cheeky notes at the bottom of the menu, no detail has been overlooked to ensure this is a great spot for breakfast, lunch, or a date night dinner. The food is pure elegance as is the stunning wine list.

2115 W. 21st St., Minneapolis / 612.377.3695

[www.thekenwoodrestaurant.com](http://www.thekenwoodrestaurant.com)



Photo by Keane Amdahl



# NEW RESTAURANT GUIDE & PREVIEW

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE  
IN LAVENDER ISSUE 444



## The Lynn on Bryant

There's a new meeting place for the Lynnhurst neighborhood. The block of businesses that were once devastated by fire now shows no sign of the destruction that was once here. It's been reborn as a thriving hub of restaurants and shops. The completion of the rebirth was the opening of The Lynn on Bryant. The long, white communal table dominates the front room, where the décor is clean and bright with rustic touches, like a focal wall decorated with reclaimed wood, with just a sliver of red accent paint visible between the slats. It's sunny, bright and welcoming. Past the open kitchen, the back room is cozier with soft lighting, no windows and soft acoustics. They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. It's not every ambitious idea that opens right out of the gate, nailing their intention, but so far The Lynn seems to do just that. At every visit, the room has been a gathering of neighbors, couples, families, friends, people meeting for business purposes or just passing through. There's a new place near the heart of this Minneapolis community and they have gently placed their fingers right on the pulse.

Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com).  
5003 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis  
612.767.7797  
[www.thelynnonbryant.com](http://www.thelynnonbryant.com)



Photo by Joy Summers

## LOUIS RISTORANTE

To eat at Cossetta's is to taste a piece of St. Paul history. The market has become as much a part of the fabric of the city as the Capitol or the cathedral. What began has a modest little market has expanded to become an enormous food wonderland. Atop it all is the recently opened Louis Ristorante. A more elegant dining experience the menu pleases people with Italian favorites. Stop by for happy hour when the portions are still dinner sized, but the prices are miniscule. A great spot for a date before a show. The outdoor patio holds some stunning views of the saintly city.

211 West 7th St., St. Paul / 651.222.7378 / [www.cossettass.com/louis](http://www.cossettass.com/louis)

### NEWS BITES



### *Marin at Chambers:* Preview

Expect fresh, healthy foods from this new spot from the owners of Mill Valley Kitchen to replace the recently departed D'Amico Kitchen at the Le Méridien Chambers Hotel.  
901 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

### *Masu MOA*

Face away from the door and you'd think you were in the original Nordeast Minneapolis Masu. The mega mall outpost is just as eye-dazzling and serves a very similar menu. It's a sushi-staked reprieve from the food court doldrums.  
332 South Ave, Bloomington / 952.896.6278 / [www.masusushiandrobata.com](http://www.masusushiandrobata.com)

### *Mona*

At the base of the Accenture building, Mona offers an elegant lunch and dinner option downtown Minneapolis. Dishes are all small plates of French-influenced fare.  
333 S. 7th St. #190, Minneapolis / 612.259.8636 / [www.monarestaurant.com](http://www.monarestaurant.com)



# NEW RESTAURANT GUIDE & PREVIEW

FROM THE FULL ARTICLE  
IN LAVENDER ISSUE 436

## The Oceanaire Seafood Room



The bar inside the new incarnation of The Oceanaire Seafood Room is packed. The room swirls with neon blue reflecting off mirrored chandeliers. The room as described by the General Manager,

Jake Uttich is going for a "1940's meets 1970's meets the future" style. He's not wrong; a sharkskin suit wouldn't look the least bit out place in this room. The exodus of elegance from the old Hyatt is complete, as Oceanaire has moved on to these shinier new digs. The room is completely different; bright, wide open, and right next to the street. Another change is the head toque. Now installed behind the burners is Robert Wohlfeil. While all the [seafood] ethics and the [interior] cosmetics are nice, there is the matter of actual taste. The food is just as exquisite, elegant and opulent as ever. Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com). 50 S. 6th St., Minneapolis / 612.333-2277 [www.theoceanaire.com](http://www.theoceanaire.com)

### NEWS BITES

#### Mosaic Café

The erstwhile Glaciers Cafe has led the charge on a restaurant revolution around the Longfellow neighborhood. The menu is filled with sustainably raised foods and a healthy selection of vegetarian offerings. Remember, it's all about balance—eat the good stuff, but save room for their frozen custard.

3019 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis  
612.746.1504 / [www.mosaiccafe.com](http://www.mosaiccafe.com)

#### Nightingale

This rock 'n' roll part of town has just gotten a little added glitz with the new Nightingale. The space is sleek and cozy. The menu features small plates, perfect for grazing well into the wee hours. They open at 5pm for those keen on happy hour, but stay open until 2am.

2551 Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis  
612.354.7060 / [www.nightingalempls.com](http://www.nightingalempls.com)



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

## NORTHBOUND SMOKEHOUSE BREWPUB

The hip kids in this quiet corner of Minneapolis have been flocking to the new Northbound Smokehouse Brewpub. In addition to their delicious brews, the food is also quite tasty. Their motto regarding the food is "nostalgia in every bite." It certainly worked on me, a porketta sandwich tasted just like the meat I remember from the Iron Range days of my youth: smokey, juicy, and spiked with fennel. This is a charmer of a neighborhood pub.

2716 East 38th St., Minneapolis / 612.208.1450 / [www.northboundbrewpub.com](http://www.northboundbrewpub.com)

## Parka

This collaboration between Dogwood Coffee, Rustica Bakery, and Victory 44 has got the Longfellow neighborhood buzzing. There's nothing else quite like it in the cities and, already, it seems safe to call them a hit. In the morning they serve impressive coffee drinks with Rustica pastries and bread. For lunch and dinner, the kitchen fires up dishes that sound like nostalgia (meatloaf, fried fish, and Jell-O salad) and arrive like a work of art. It's the playful modern cuisine that Chef Erick Harcey is known for. It's a modest, clean space that they share with Forage Modern Worskhop.

4021 E. Lake St., Minneapolis  
[www.parkampls.com](http://www.parkampls.com)



Photo by Hubert Bonnet



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Kathy Jenkins - Saint Paul Pioneer Press

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**NEW**  
**RESTAURANT**  
**GUIDE**  
& PREVIEW



Photos by Keane Amdahl

## SMACK SHACK

Lobster fans have long been waiting for this new North Loop spot to open and now all their drawn butter dreams have been answered. This place has got it all: expansive bar, a mezzanine for private parties, a giant pot for boils, plenty of outdoor seating, a raw bar and more. They also are serving vegetarian dishes like a green tomato po' boy as well as full entrees, including steak. 603 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis / 612.259.7288 [www.smack-shack.com](http://www.smack-shack.com)

### NEWS BITES

#### POTTER'S PASTIES: Preview

The food truck known for their English-style hand pies will sell them grab 'n' go at this no-seater spot as well as offer par-baked pies for easy home prep. 1827 Como Ave., Minneapolis [www.potterspasties.com](http://www.potterspasties.com)

#### THE POURHOUSE

This Prohibition-inspired downtown spot is filled with spaces to catch a game, some tunes, brews, or food as well as a collection of secret passages worth exploring. 10 S. Fifth St., Minneapolis/ 612.843.2555 [www.thepourhousempls.com](http://www.thepourhousempls.com)

#### PRIMEBAR

Farewell for good Figlio! This new hot spot at Calhoun Square brings the neighborhood sliders, flingers, and funky daily mac 'n' cheese for their dining pleasure. 3001 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis 612.235.4295 [www.primebarminneapolis.com](http://www.primebarminneapolis.com)

#### RED COW: Preview

3624 W. 50th St., Minneapolis Luke Shimp has left the Blue Plate Company to branch out on his own solo endeavor in this former Blockbuster space that will serve a selective wine list with gourmet twists on casual pub fare.

#### REPUBLIC - UPTOWN

The 7 Corners hot spot for hops lovers has expanded into Calhoun Square with their staggering selection of craft beer and all the delicious food accoutrements to accompany them. 3001 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis 612.886.2309 / [www.republicmn.com](http://www.republicmn.com)

#### RINCON 38: Preview

Hector Ruiz of Cafe Ena and the late El Meson will open this tapas-focused spot. 3801 Grand Ave., Minneapolis

#### SANDCASTLE: Preview

Many may have bid, but only Doug Flicker was chosen to run the food out of the Lake Nokomis concession stand where we expect to soon have the best picnics of all time. Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis

#### SUSHI FIX: Preview

The best sushi to be had from a food truck is moving into a permanent space in beautiful downtown Wayzata; the Sushi Fix restaurant should be opening very soon. 962 E. Lake St., Wayzata [www.sushifix.net](http://www.sushifix.net)





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[facebook.com/BarLouieUptown](https://facebook.com/BarLouieUptown)



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NEW  
RESTAURANT  
GUIDE  
& PREVIEW



Photos by Hubert Bonnet

## WORLD STREET KITCHEN

There are few food trucks who inspire the sort of devotion that World Street Kitchen has. Even the Minneapolis mayor proclaims his adoration for the Yum Yum Bowl. This hip spot at the base of some newly built condos is fully of the vibrancy felt in the neighborhood around it. The menu is stacked with vegetarian, gluten-free, and ungodly decadent dishes (MFC Chicken, I'm looking at you). Be certain to taste the wine and beer cocktails as well as the house-made soft-serve fro yo. 2743 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis / 612.424.8855 / [www.eatwsk.com](http://www.eatwsk.com)

### NEWS BITES

#### Travail Expansion: **Preview**

The little restaurant on the edge of the city that caught the imagination of the entire nation is expanding and will hopefully mean no more standing out in line for hours. 4154 W. Broadway Ave., Robbinsdale / 763.535.1131

#### Zeke's Unchained Animal: **Preview**

Burgers, pizza, wings, and craft beer are coming to this oddly named space from a collective of chefs who hope to open very soon. 3508 E. Lake St., Minneapolis / [www.zekesunchainedanimal.com](http://www.zekesunchainedanimal.com)



FROM THE FULL ARTICLE  
IN LAVENDER ISSUE 460



## UNION

The signs of life were there before anyone knew what was coming. The hulking space that once housed Shinders was undergoing a massive transformation. It would be known as UNION. The retractable roof came into shape, offering a new way to dine, year-round, under the stars. Mouths gaped at the specs; the entire operation looked ambitious and impressive. In a head-spinningly short amount of time, they were opening their doors to the public. Not only was the restaurant space exciting, so too was the news of who would be running the kitchen. Jim Christiansen came through the ranks of various Tim McKee restaurants. He was the chef who tried to wrestle expectations of owners and customers at Il Gatto, before taking some much needed time off to travel and cook at what is the hottest restaurant on the planet, Noma. Once he was committed to the new restaurant, Christiansen began to spin his culinary magic and form the menu. With an enigmatic, talented chef like this, in the dizzying location, UNION will also likely be drawing in all kinds of colorful people to the heart of downtown Minneapolis. Read more at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com). 731 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis 612.455.6690 [www.unionmpls.com](http://www.unionmpls.com)



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Mpls., MN 55407  
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**Grandview Grill**

Bielenberg & Tamarack Woodbury 651.209.8182      Grand Avenue & Fairview Saint Paul 651.698.2346



NEW  
RESTAURANT  
GUIDE  
& PREVIEW

# UNION

Chef Jim Christiansen



## SUNDAY

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[excludes glass pours]

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\$5 MARTINIS

## TUESDAY

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**\*David's cook-off contest February 23rd\***  
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**\*Bingo every Friday 6-8\***  
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# DINING Guide

AVERAGE PRICE OF A TYPICAL ENTREE

\$ Less than \$15, \$\$ \$15-\$25, \$\$\$ more than \$25

## 3 SQUARES RESTAURANT \$

12690 Arbor Lakes Pkwy. • Maple Grove, MN 55369  
763-425-3330

[www.3squaresrestaurant.com](http://www.3squaresrestaurant.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Happy Hour

**Description:** Suburban version of the urban diner. Comfort food, craft beer, stylish atmosphere & family-friendly vibes.

## ANGEL FOOD BAKERY + COFFEE BAR

86 S. 9th St. (above Hell's Kitchen)  
Minneapolis, MN 55402 • 612-238-1435

[www.angelfoodmn.com](http://www.angelfoodmn.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Cakes, Cupcakes, Sweets

**Description:** Grab a coveted counter stool and watch the Pastry Chefs in action right before your eyes.

## BAR LOUIE UPTOWN \$\$

1348 Lagoon Ave. • Minneapolis, MN 55408  
612-824-1529

[www.barlouieamerica.com](http://www.barlouieamerica.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Bar Louie is an eclectic urban bar made famous for our signature martinis, cocktails and dynamic beer selection.

## BLACKBIRD CAFÉ \$\$

3800 Nicollet Ave. • Minneapolis, MN  
612-823-4790

[www.blackbirdmpls.com](http://www.blackbirdmpls.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** New American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Afternoon & Late Night Happy Hour

**Description:** Casually classic comfort foods, thoughtful beer & wine list.

## BRADSTREET CRAFTHOUSE \$

601 1st Ave. N. • Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-312-1821

[www.bradstreetcrafthouse.com](http://www.bradstreetcrafthouse.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Innovative Plates to Share

**Meals Served:** Dinner

**Description:** Cuisine is unique and served in a style perfect for sampling and sharing. Featuring classic mixology cocktails.

## BURGER MOE'S \$

242 W. 7th St. • St. Paul, MN 55102  
651-222-3100

[www.burgermoes.com](http://www.burgermoes.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** A fun neighborhood restaurant offering great burgers, over 85 beers, and a large outdoor patio.

## CAFÉ MAUDE \$\$

5411 Penn Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55419  
612-822-5411

[www.cafemaude.com](http://www.cafemaude.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Mediterranean American Bistro

**Meals Served:** Brunch, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Lively neighborhood bistro featuring live music & craft cocktails.

## CAFÉ MAUDE AT LORING \$\$

1612 Harmon Pl. • Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-767-9080

[www.cafemaudeatloring.com](http://www.cafemaudeatloring.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Mediterranean American Bistro

**Meals Served:** Brunch, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Lively bistro on Loring Park featuring craft cocktails.

## CECIL'S DELI \$

651 Cleveland Ave. • St. Paul, MN 55116  
651-698-0334

[www.cecilsdeli.com](http://www.cecilsdeli.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Deli

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Delicatessen, Bakery, Restaurant. Home & Office Catering. We deliver! Call us!

## CITIZEN CAFÉ \$\$

2403 E. 38th St. • Minneapolis, MN 55406  
612-729-1122

[www.citizen-cafe.com](http://www.citizen-cafe.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Serving a wide variety of dishes created in a scratch kitchen. Beer & wine too!

## COSMOS RESTAURANT \$\$\$

601 1st Ave. N. • Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-312-1168

[www.cosmosrestaurant.com](http://www.cosmosrestaurant.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Contemporary American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Cosmos provides the perfect atmosphere, cuisine and location for a night on the town.

## DOWNTOWNER WOODFIRE GRILL \$\$

253 W. 7th St. • St. Paul, MN 55102  
651-228-9500

[www.downtownerwoodfire.com](http://www.downtownerwoodfire.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American with a Persian touch

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** A diverse menu that is sure to please every palate. Specializing in fire roasted meat.

## EAGLEBOLT BAR \$

515 Washington Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55415  
612-338-4214

[www.eagleboltbar.com](http://www.eagleboltbar.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Bar Food

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** A full array of appetizers, soups, salads, pizzas, burger and chicken baskets, and much more.

## EDINA GRILL \$

5028 France Ave. S. • Edina, MN 55424  
952-927-7933

[www.edinagrill.com](http://www.edinagrill.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Happy Hour

**Description:** The first choice for your second kitchen. Only with better French fries.

## FRENCH MEADOW BAKERY & CAFÉ \$

2610 Lyndale Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55408  
612-870-7855

[www.frenchmeadowcafe.com](http://www.frenchmeadowcafe.com)

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Organic, gluten-free, vegan & classic comfort food. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Housemade pasta, Napa featured wines, tap beer.

## GAY 90'S \$

408 Hennepin Ave. • Minneapolis, MN 55401  
612-333-7755

[www.gay90s.com](http://www.gay90s.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Bar Food

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** A nightclub with a great menu. Enjoy dinner with your show.

## GRANDVIEW GRILL \$\$

Grand Ave. and Fairview • St. Paul, MN 55105  
651-698-2346

[www.newgrandviewgrill.com](http://www.newgrandviewgrill.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Description:** Mon-Fri: 6:30am - 2:30pm. Sat: 6:30am - 3:00pm. Sun: 8:00am - 3:00pm.

## GROVELAND TAP \$

1834 St. Clair Ave. • St. Paul, MN 55105  
651-699-5058

[www.grovelandtap.com](http://www.grovelandtap.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Friendly neighborhood beer and burger joint featuring the Juicy Lucy and over 40 beers on tap.

## THE HAPPY GNOME \$\$

498 Selby Ave. • St. Paul, MN 55102  
651-287-2018

[www.thehappygnome.com](http://www.thehappygnome.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Brunch, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Locally-sourced, chef-driven menu, with 76 craft beers on draft, unique wines, and 200 whiskies.

## HELL'S KITCHEN \$\$\$

80 S. 9th St. • Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612-332-470

[www.hellskitcheninc.com](http://www.hellskitcheninc.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Late Nite Menu, Weekend Brunch

**Description:** In a one-of-a-kind underground lair, this fiercely independent Twin Cities gem shines with damn good food morning, noon and night.

## HIGHLAND GRILL \$

771 Cleveland Ave. • St. Paul, MN 55116  
651-690-1173

[www.highlandgrill.com](http://www.highlandgrill.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Happy Hour

**Description:** The first choice for your second kitchen. Only with better French fries.

## HOLY LAND BAKERY & DELI \$

2513 Central Ave. NE • Minneapolis, MN 55418  
612-781-2627

[www.holylandbrand.com](http://www.holylandbrand.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Mediterranean

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Come enjoy the flavors of "old world cuisine", rich, authentic flavor perfected over 25 years.



## BAR SHOWCASE | photos by George Holdgrafer

**LORING KITCHEN & BAR** FEBRUARY 10**LUSH FOOD BAR** FEBRUARY 10

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# LUSH

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**SUN** 2p - 2a

### APPETIZERS

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Lush Bites  
Calamari  
Conch Fritters  
Portobello Strips  
Nachos  
Quesadilla  
Boneless Wings  
Bruschetta  
Chicken Spring Rolls  
Artichoke Dip  
Cheese Curds  
Hot Chips  
Skinny Fries  
Sweet Potato Fries

### SLIDERS

Meatloaf  
Crab Cakes  
Pot Roast

### SALADS

Chopped Caesar  
Cobb  
Strawberry Pecan  
Mediterranean  
Spinach

### BURGERS

Angus Beef  
Garden Veggie  
Rockit  
Black & Blue  
Loaded  
Roasted Portobello  
Stuffed

[lushfoodbar.com](http://lushfoodbar.com)





# DININGguide

AVERAGE PRICE OF A TYPICAL ENTREE

\$ Less than \$15, \$\$ \$15-\$25, \$\$\$ more than \$25

## HOLY LAND MIDTOWN \$

920 E. Lake St., Ste. 145 · Minneapolis, MN 55407  
612-870-6104

[www.holylandbrand.com](http://www.holylandbrand.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Mediterranean

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Come enjoy the flavors of "old world cuisine", rich, authentic flavor perfected over 25 years.

## IT'S GREEK TO ME \$\$

626 W. Lake St. · Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 825-9922

[www.itsgreektomemn.com](http://www.itsgreektomemn.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Greek

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** A touch of Greece in the heart of Minneapolis. Full bar.

## JAKEENO'S PIZZA & PASTA \$\$

3555 Chicago Ave. S. · Minneapolis, MN 55407  
612-825-6827

[www.jakeenos.com](http://www.jakeenos.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Italian

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Traditional red sauce pastas, thin crust pizza, home-made sauces. Beer and wine.

## LONGFELLOW GRILL \$

2990 West River Pkwy. · Minneapolis, MN 55406  
612-721-2711

[www.longfellowgrill.com](http://www.longfellowgrill.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Happy Hour

**Description:** The first choice for your second kitchen. Only with a better view.

## LORING KITCHEN & BAR \$\$

1359 Willow St. · Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-843-0400

[www.loringkitchen.com](http://www.loringkitchen.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** A neighborhood kitchen with destination appeal, featuring contemporary cuisine in a comfortable and inviting atmosphere.

## LOUISIANA CAFÉ \$\$

613 Selby Ave. · St. Paul, MN 55102  
651-221-9140

[www.newlouisianacafe.com](http://www.newlouisianacafe.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Description:** Mon-Fri: 6:30 am - 2:30pm. Sat: 6:30am - 3:00pm. Sun: 8:00am - 3:00pm.

## THE LOWRY \$

2112 Hennepin Ave. S. · Minneapolis, MN 55405  
612-341-2112

[www.thelowryuptown.com](http://www.thelowryuptown.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Happy Hour

**Description:** Burgers · Whiskey · Oysters · Eggs

## LUSH \$

990 Central Ave. NE · Minneapolis, MN 55413  
[www.lushfoodbar.com](http://www.lushfoodbar.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American Cuisine

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** The hottest spot in NE Mpls with sleek, modern décor, exuberant entertainment and eclectic food.

## MARLA'S CARIBBEAN CUISINE \$

3761 Bloomington Ave. S. · Minneapolis, MN 55407  
612-724-3088

[www.marlascuisine.com](http://www.marlascuisine.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Caribbean Cuisine

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** A unique cuisine created from Indian, creole, and Asian influence. Homecooked, flavorful, and authentic Caribbean cuisine.

## THE MELTING POT \$\$

80 S. 9th St. · Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612-338-9900

[www.meltingpot.com](http://www.meltingpot.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Fondue

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Fondue is a memorable four-course dining experience where guests can dip into something different.

## MONA RESTAURANT & BAR \$

333 S. 7th St., Ste. 190 · Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612-259-8636

[www.monarestaurant.com](http://www.monarestaurant.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American (new)

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Happy Hour, Dinner

**Description:** A chef-driven small plates restaurant with a full bar, open kitchen, patio, and validated parking.

## NONNA ROSA'S \$\$

4168 W. Broadway Ave. · Robbinsdale, MN 55422  
763-537-3700

[www.nonnarosaswinebar.com](http://www.nonnarosaswinebar.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Italian

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Charming neighborhood Italian restaurant. Happy hour, half-price wine, pasta bar lunch, Venetian inspired banquet room.

## ORIGAMI RESTAURANT \$\$

30 N. 1st St. · Minneapolis, MN 55401  
612-333-8430

[www.origamirestaurant.com](http://www.origamirestaurant.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Japanese/Sushi

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Awarded the best sushi restaurant year after year. Daily happy hour 5 - 6:30 PM

## RUDOLPHS RIBS \$\$

1933 Lyndale Ave. S. · Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-871-8969

[www.rudolphsribs.com](http://www.rudolphsribs.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American/Bar-b-que

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Old school cooking of American classics: family recipes and a bar-b-que soul.

## SALOON GRILL @ SALOON \$

830 Hennepin Ave. · Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-332-0835

[www.saloonmn.com](http://www.saloonmn.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Bar Food

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** The search for a place that offers great food, cocktails and atmosphere is over!

## SAWATDEE THAI RESTAURANT MINNEAPOLIS \$

607 Washington Ave. S. · Minneapolis, MN 55415  
612-338-6451

[www.sawatdee.com](http://www.sawatdee.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Thai

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Serving award-winning Thai cuisine for 30 years. Offering delivery, catering lunch buffet & more.

## SAWATDEE AND ZUSHIYA OF MAPLE GROVE \$

7885 Main St. N. · Maple Grove, MN 55369  
763-494-5708

[www.sawatdee.com](http://www.sawatdee.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Thai and Japanese

**Meals Served:** Lunch, Dinner

**Description:** Serving authentic Thai and Japanese cuisine. Enjoy daily happy hour and live music 3 nights/week.

## SCUSI \$\$

1806 St. Clair Ave. · St. Paul, MN 55105  
651-789-7007

[www.scusistpaul.com](http://www.scusistpaul.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** Italian

**Meals Served:** Dinner, Sunday brunch

**Description:** Pizza · Wine Bar · Kitchen Delicious, authentic; never stuffy or pretentious.

## TOAST WINE BAR & CAFÉ \$\$\$

415 N. 1st St. · Minneapolis, MN  
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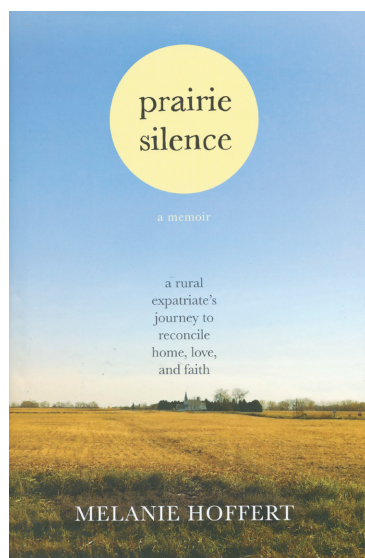
[www.newwoodburycafe.com](http://www.newwoodburycafe.com)

**Type of Cuisine:** American

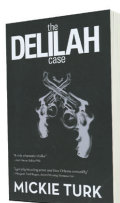
**Meals Served:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Description:** Mon-Sat: 6:30am - 3:00pm. Sun: 7:00am - 3:00pm.



**PRAIRIE SILENCE****Melanie Hoffert****Beacon Press****\$24.95**

Hoffert, local writer and resident, was raised on a small farm near Wyndmere, North Dakota. She realized after an epiphany she had at four, that she was somehow different. Later, realizing that she was gay, she moved away. Hoffert anchors this memoir in a visit back home for the fall harvest, but infuses that weeks-long experience with anecdotes from the past together with conversations and excursions with family, friends, and strangers in the present. A particular aspect of longing Hoffert explores is one's own part in the creation and maintenance of "otherness." Who already knew, or would have been willing to engage had they known? To what degree are the age-old barriers of prairie silence to blame? Can one break barriers—does one want to?

**THE DELILAH CASE****Mickie Turk****House of Myth Books****\$14.95; \$4.95 Kindle**

Mixing New Orleans ambience, voodoo, and the soul loss and retrieval struggles of a brilliant but damaged woman, Turk serves up a gothic tale of epic proportions. As a child prodigy in the slums, Little Niqui was nurtured and pushed like a hot-house plant to further the plans of others. Grown up and become the highly respected Dr. Dominique Doucette, she returns to her old haunts to open The House of Mithras, a reform prison experiment housing six violent male killers. Assaults and a death early on disrupt her agenda and send Dominique back to the still open Delilah Case and a life and death struggle for her soul and sanity. A cast of interesting characters, including a local sheriff Turk redeems from redneck stereotype.

**THE CARTER FAMILY: DON'T FORGET THIS SONG****Frank M. Young and David Lasky****Abrams Comicarts****\$24.95**

Writer Young and artist Lasky use the graphic novel to great effect in their splendid telling of the Carter Family's saga. A.P., his wife Sara, with sister-in-law/cousin Maybelle, were hugely popular across America from 1927 to 1943, with hundreds of radio shows, live performances and millions of records. A.P. researched relentlessly for the likes of "Can the Circle Be Unbroken?" "Little Darling Pal of Mine," "Wildwood Flower," undermining his marriage to rescue vanishing musical treasures for posterity. Moving yet unsentimental, the text follows the emotional and financial hard truths of the Carters' lives through uncluttered yet evocative art. (Maybelle's daughter June later married Johnny Cash, and the music rolled on.) A noteworthy bonus is the enclosed music CD of eleven rare Carter Family radio recordings.

**FULL MOON OVER MADELINE ISLAND****Jay Gilbertson****Create Space****\$14; \$4.95 Kindle**

Friends of Eve and Ruby will cheer at a third opportunity to join them and their ever-widening circle of friends and extended families in Gilbertson's third excursion to Madeleine Island. The plot centers around the upcoming opening of Toad Hollow, a safe-house for pregnant teenagers, but strange and wonderful—and unnerving—events intervene that might put the kibosh on the project. Through the Ducky Derby, Eve and Ruby on live radio, the ghostly appearance of a concerned ancestor, hidden family history, the death of Eve's estranged father and unexpected knowledge of her mother, Gilbertson keeps up the pace in Full Moon while continuing to explore the limits and constraints (are there any?) to friendship, love and family ties—reminders that "No woman is an island." □



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**1-USA****U.S. Military Extends Many Benefits To Same-Sex Partners**

Reuters reports that the Pentagon announced on Monday it would extend more of the benefits offered to spouses of heterosexual troops to those of gay personnel but acknowledged some key benefits, like housing, would still be off-limits, at least for now. The decision, which came 17 months after the Pentagon ended its “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” ban on openly gay service members, and will positively affect the day-to-day lives of their spouses in many aspects. Outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta stated: “While it will not change during my tenure as secretary of defense, I foresee a time when the law will allow the department to grant full benefits to service members and their dependents, irrespective of sexual orientation.”

**MINNESOTA****Dayton Defends Budget, Endorses Gay Marriage In State Of The State Address**

TwinCities.com reports that Governor Mark Dayton says Minnesota is better off now than when he took office two years ago but state leaders still have much more work to do. On the subject of gay marriage, Dayton stated emphatically: “I believe that every Minnesotan should have the freedom to marry legally the person she or he loves, whether of the same or other sex,” which resulted in a standing ovation from DFL lawmakers while Republicans remained conspicuously silent. Dayton has supported same-sex marriage for years, but his statement in the address came as somewhat of a surprise as he had earlier stated that he wanted to put the marriage issue on the back burner while he and lawmakers dealt with the state’s budget issues.

**NEW YORK****Students Fight Westboro Baptist Church Haters With \$40,000 For Gay Charity**

*Gay Star News* reports that students from Vassar College in New York have pledged \$100 for every minute the Westboro Baptist Church plans to protest on campus. Members of the church planned to protest at the pro-GLBT university earlier this month, which prompted the students’ countermeasure. All money raised will be donated to the Trevor Project, which provides suicide prevention and crisis intervention for GLBT youth.

**DENVER**

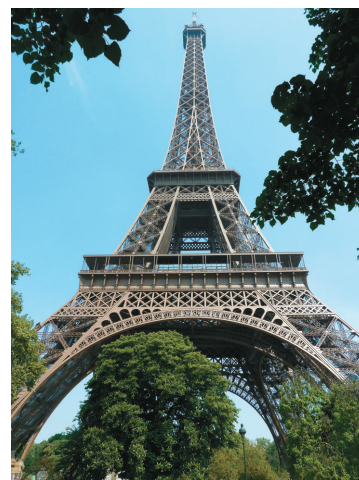
The *Huffington Post* reports that Denver Nuggets star Kenneth Faried has become the first NBA player to join an organization devoted to fighting homophobia in sports, and said he hopes his involvement will raise awareness of gay rights in professional basketball. Faried was raised by two mothers, and said: “Becoming an Athlete Ally gives me the opportunity to spread a message of inclusiveness throughout the NBA and our country. I have two moms and I love them both very much. I respect, honor and support them in every way. The bond I have with them has made me realize that I want all members of the GLBT community — whether they are parents, players, coaches or fans — to feel welcome in the NBA and in all of our communities.”

**INDIANA**

The *Inquisitr* reports that a special education teacher from Indiana has stated that gays have no purpose and is promoting a prom that will exclude gay students. Diana Medley, who is employed by North Central High School in Sullivan County, joined with several high school students and their parents to plan a prom that will ban gay students since Sullivan High School officials have refused to ban GLBT students from the official school prom. Medley states that she is not opposed to counseling students who are gay, but they must understand that she is morally opposed to their behavior and lifestyle choices. When asked by a reporter if she believes that gays have a purpose in life, Medley said: “No I honestly don’t. Sorry, but I don’t. I don’t understand it.”

**2-FRANCE**

*USA Today* reports that France’s lower house of parliament on Tuesday approved a sweeping bill to legalize gay marriage and allow same-sex couples to adopt children, handing a major legislative victory to President Francois Hollande’s Socialists on a divisive social issue. The measure, which passed by a 329 to 229 vote, could bring France in line with nearly a dozen other European countries that allow gay marriage. Most polls show that a majority of the French citizens support legalizing gay marriage, although the gap narrows considerably in the question of gay couples adopting or conceiving children.

**3-BRITAIN**

The *Huffington Post* reports that a new British poll has now revealed a slightly more disturbing fact about that population’s fractured relationship with body image. The study, commissioned by the Central YMCA, the Succeed Foundation and the University of the West of England’s Centre for Appearance Research, found that a full 48% of men interviewed would sacrifice a year or more of their lives for the perfect body, with 10% of those men saying that they would agree to die more than 11 years earlier in exchange for the perfect body right now. Rosi Prescott, CEO of Central YMCA, stated: “Today gay men are under enormous pressure about their bodies, and we believe that a lack of body diversity in the media, including the gay press, and a relentless focus which values people based on appearance, may in part explain why gay men are particularly susceptible to this issue.”

**4-RUSSIA**

*USA Today* reports that New Zealand speedskater Blake Skjellerup is focused on making his second Olympic team, but is also concerned about the anti-gay legislation working its way through the Russian parliament. Skjellerup, who came out after the 2010 Vancouver Games, stated: “I don’t want to have to tone myself down about who I am. That wasn’t very fun and there’s no way I’m going back in the closet. I just want to be myself and I hate to think that being myself would get me in trouble.” However, given the growing homophobia, openly gay Olympic athletes and others hoping to attend the Games have reason for concern in a culture that is vastly different from that in the last two Olympic Games, in Vancouver and in London. □



by Andy Lien



## CAMPAIGN MARRIES MUSIC AND PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

It's fairly easy to see members of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus when they're wearing their black "MARRY US" t-shirts. Attractive and eye-catching (both the men and the shirts), the attention is drawn to the big white block letters across the front of the shirts with the political statement that elevates the visibility of the Freedom to Marry campaign. Now, there's an entire photography project that takes the striking visual elements and those beautiful people to a larger audience. In the black and white photos by B.D. Portraits Photography, the people—GLBT, allies, single, coupled, and anywhere along the spectrum—wear black t-shirts, and across the picture are the words "MARRY US." Meant to take advantage of how easily pictures can be shared and spread across social networking, the free photography will hopefully make this message of beauty and marriage rights widespread and oft-seen. Here's a short Q&A with Jeff Heine and Christopher Taykalo of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, and the photographer, Brent Dundore of B.D. Portraits Photography:

**Q: What is MARRY US?**

A: The MARRY US campaign is a partnership between the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and BD Portraits Photography Studio in collaboration with Minnesotans United for All Families to raise awareness and promote marriage equality for all.

**Q: How did MARRY US start? How is the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus involved?**

A: In 1995, when Dr. Stan Hill (the recently retired Artistic Director of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus) was the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, he commissioned a piece called "Marry Us" which was part of a larger choral work called "NakedMan" which has become an important work in gay choral literature. In response to the Minnesota Legislature's vote in Spring 2011 to place a constitutional amendment on the November 2012 ballot to define marriage as between one man and one woman, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus decided to sing "Marry Us" at all performances in the 2011-12 concert season and at rallies and gatherings of people who were opposed to the amendment up until election day. The song's demand for equality is summed up in the final line: "Marry us, today!"

**Q: Who's involved in the MARRY US campaign? Where do you see it going?**

A: Former Los Angeles celebrity and fashion photographer Brent Dundore (BD Portraits Photography Studio) has joined forces with TCGMC to create the MARRY US campaign. Brent, a Minneapolis resident and singing Chorus member, fought for marriage equality in California and witnessed what happened with Proposition 8 firsthand. Now that the vote on the amendment is behind us, we hope that the MARRY US campaign will encourage people to contact their representatives and senators in the Minnesota legislature to vote in support of marriage equality and join the 9 states who already recognize marriage equality.

**Q: What are the most important aspects of the MARRY US campaign?**

A: The combination of the musical message of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and Brent Dundore's images of Minnesotans—gay and straight—who support marriage equality are powerful symbols of love and inclusion.

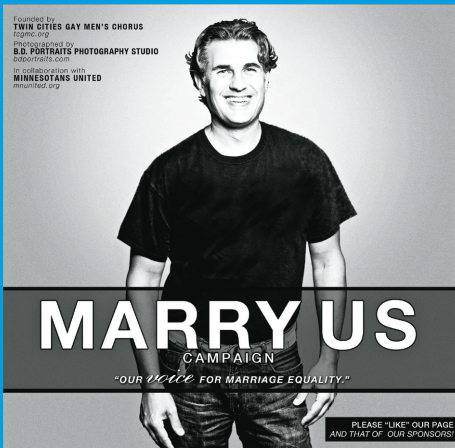
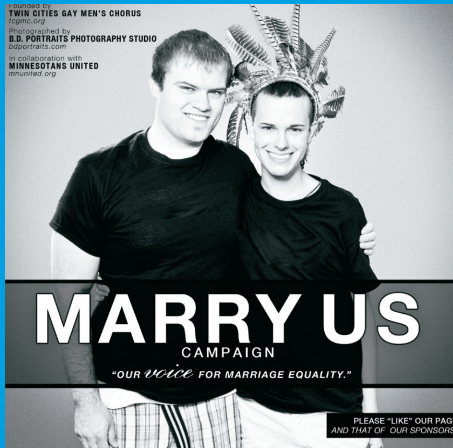
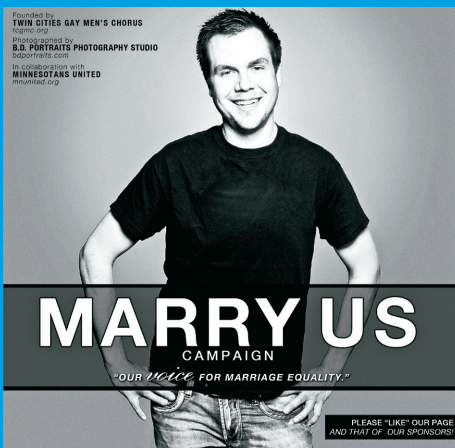
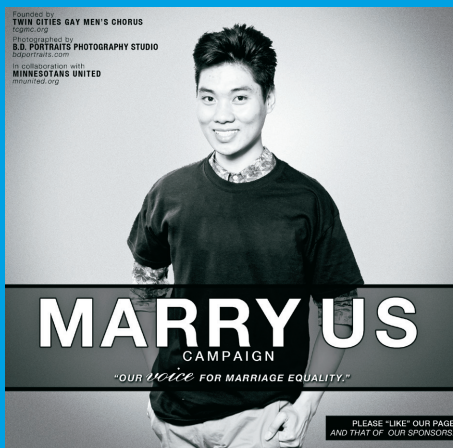
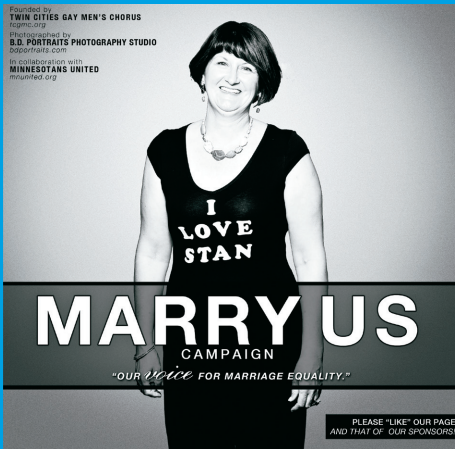
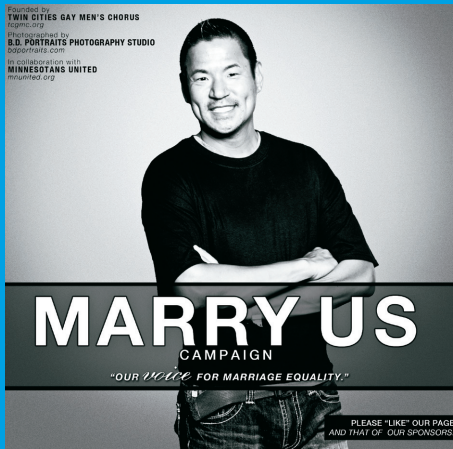
**Q: What would you like the public to know about the MARRY US campaign?**

A: Please like the campaign's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/marryuscampaign](http://www.facebook.com/marryuscampaign)) for more information on MARRY US and where you can get your picture taken. You can also learn more on our website: [www.marryuscampaign.com](http://www.marryuscampaign.com) to find out where we'll be taking pictures next. You can buy MARRY US T-shirts to show your support of the campaign at [www.TCGMC.org](http://www.TCGMC.org). Do you have an event where a MARRY US shoot would be appropriate? Contact the photographer and check out his work at BD Portraits Photography Studio's website: [www.BDportraits.com](http://www.BDportraits.com).



# MARRY US

CAMPAIGN MARRIES MUSIC AND PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE FREEDOM TO MARRY





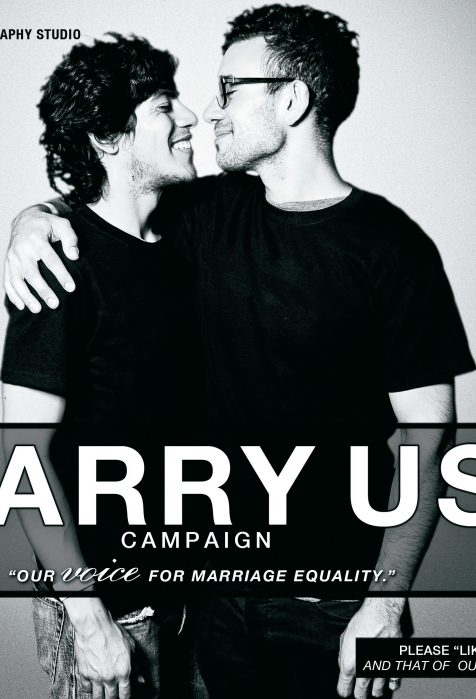
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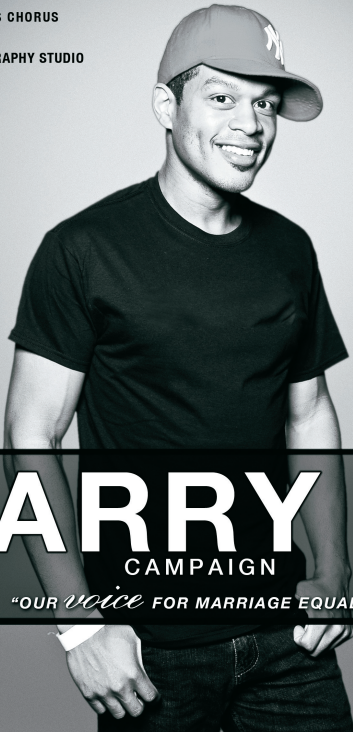
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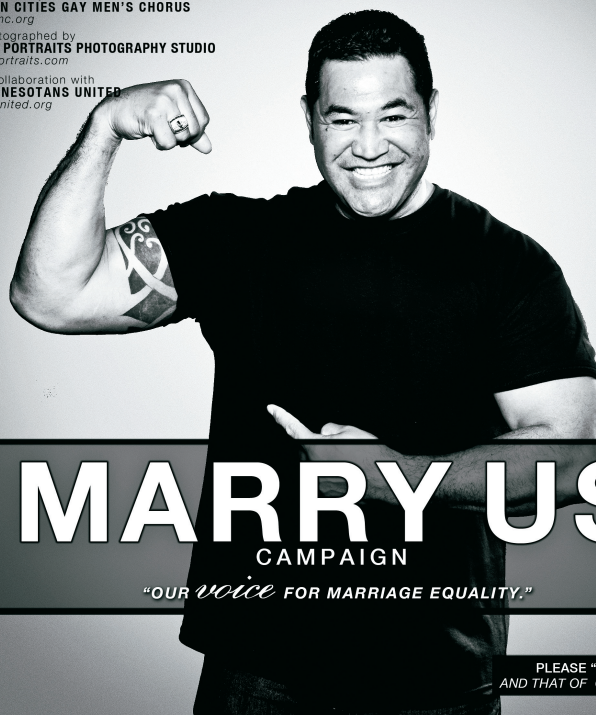
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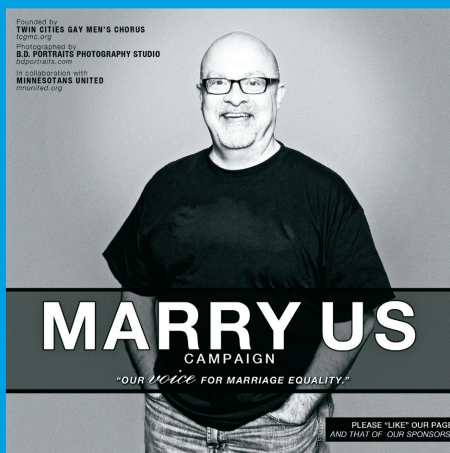
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# MARRY US

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#### In response to "What's in a Name? A Case for Civil Unions" in Issue 461:

I just want to say that I am finally hearing someone say what I have been advocating to my gay friends for years. It is about time someone has said this in a major publication where a lot of gay friendly people will see it, I hope.

I have a friend in Germany who told me about the struggle to get gay marriage approved there. He said that the law was put to the vote to allow gay people to have the same civil union afforded any other two people and it passed easily. It allowed gay couples to pass on their assets in case one of them died and it gave them full rights to visit each other in a hospital situation and to have all the rights and privileges given to other couples.

He said that in the months after this was

passed he would hear someone remark that a gay couple were going to have a civil ceremony as was now the law and someone would say, "Oh they're getting married!" It was a natural course of things which followed the law being changed to allow gay civil unions. There is little or notice given now when this happens. It can be that way here too and we should do all we can to promote this idea.

Thank you for saying what needs to be said and get the gay advocates going on an agenda to get them all equal civil rights and not to try to force the words "gay marriage" down the throats of the far right and religiously misled extremists.

KEN L. (VIA WEBSITE)

#### In response to "Outreach: A Conversation with Rep. Andrea Kieffer (R)" in Issue 462:

Ms. Kieffer used to be my representative, but redistricting gave me a better choice. I always found her a slick mouthpiece for the party line. She was one of a number of Republicans who said they supported equality but voted to put the rights of same sex couples up for a referendum anyway. I think their newly discovered embrace of civil unions is just another dodge for discrimination. We should expect more from our legislators.

—BETH-ANN (VIA WEBSITE)

There were a number of GOP freshman legislators who had their arms twisted to vote for the marriage amendment to be put on the ballot. They didn't believe it was right, but under pressure, they voted for it anyway.

Andrea was one. Should she have stood up then? Sure, but she is standing up now, and what does the gay and lesbian community gain by rejecting her? Not a damn thing.

Understand, it is not Republicans the community should focus its anger at. Democrats have controlled the legislature for decades (last session the sole exception). They have talked a good game to the gay/lesbian community, but they never acted on the talk. They knew same-sex marriage was not a winner for them politically. Even now, coming off defeat of the marriage amendment, they aren't really making a strong push on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Democrats might have the votes to pass something on same-sex marriage, but sincere Republican support like Andrea's is a fast path to deserved the respect and dignity that make marriage the powerful force that it is. Think about that before you rush to crucify her with your comments.

—CRAIG WESTOVER (VIA WEBSITE)

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# Our Family Albums

One of the frustrations I've felt about the same-sex marriage argument has been the reliance on this as a civil rights/equality issue. It may be that but it's so much more. We same-sex couples are families. We are in families. Some of us have children. We have sisters, brothers, cousins, parents, uncles, aunts, and family friends. Our relationships with one another exist regardless of state recognition. This matters. We are missing an important argument towards winning this fight. Let me set the scene.

Doug Belden wrote a very interesting article in the February 2, 2013, *Pioneer Press* entitled, "Gay marriage battle, round 2, coming to Minnesota Capitol." In this article he carefully lays out the cases being made by pro-same-sex marriage groups and the anti-same-sex marriage side. What's interesting, is neither one is really talking about us. Instead each side argues as though we weren't actually, well, there, as people.

First, let's parse the argument for same-sex marriage recognition by the state. Belden reports:

"It's exactly the same set of values that we touched upon that were successful in defeating the amendment," said state Sen. Scott Dibble, DFL-Minneapolis, who will sponsor the gay-marriage bill in the Senate. "Marriage is about love and commitment. People taking responsibility for each other. Freedom belongs to everyone, and the freedom to marry is a part of the freedoms we all enjoy. And we treat everyone in Minnesota with dignity and respect."

These are high-minded ideals. This strategy did defeat the Marriage Amendment, but is that enough? Ordinary Minnesotans voted against making marriage a constitutionally defined device. People were reluctant to "enshrine it" in our fundamental civil contract. Relationships are about love and commitment but they are more than that. It is the way we arrange our lives and our interactions.

Minnesota United for All Families also

characterized it in the same way; civil rights.

"Up until Nov. 6, the conversation was essentially: The freedom to marry is already limited, we don't need to put this in our constitution and make it permanent and forevermore," said Jake Loesch, spokesman for Minnesotans United. "And now the conversation has sort of moved from no to yes, and really helping people understand how important it is that we include same-sex couples in marriage and allow them the same freedom that everyone else has."

Loesch makes the same argument as Dibble. This is about fairness and equality. We should have our relationships recognized by the state because it is about freedom. We should be free to marry. It's a civil rights issue. There is nothing wrong with this approach except it isn't compelling by itself. We all want to be "fair" and "equal" and have "freedoms." But these ideals speak only to the GLBT community and to our staunchest allies. They don't speak as powerfully to those who may marginally agree.

Let's consider the argument on the other side of the issue. Jason Adkins of the Minnesota Catholic Conference had this to say about this fight: "The movement to redefine marriage is not fundamentally about marriage. It's about the symbolic move to create GLBT equality, and what I think is essentially normalizing homosexual relationships and putting them on the same plane as heterosexual relationships, to say that they're fundamentally equal."

Adkins' argument essentially ignores the relationships we have as 'not real.' He suggests our relationships don't have the heft and meaning a traditional marriage relationship does. That is the fundamental weakness in his argument. If our relationships don't have substance, he has a point. But, we know he's wrong. They do and he fails to recognize that, which is why he says the following: "Now, from a public policy perspective, though, government has a compelling interest in privileging the relationships

between a man and a woman because of the public benefits they serve. If we redefine marriage, we're essentially eliminating marriage and turning it into a system of love licenses, government-sponsored love licenses. What's the public purpose of that? There is none."

The traditional marriage argument is that government's interest in providing special treatment to a man/woman couple is rooted in the interests of children. We created stable, state-recognized family units in order to facilitate raising children in a good environment. If children have two parents who work together and support the nurturing of children, these children have a better chance at becoming responsible, productive members of society. Let's not question the premise but consider the fatal flaw in their argument.

There are many same-sex couples with children, both biological and adopted. Are these children in family units that are less real? What about the fact we don't require married couples to procreate to have their relationships recognized? It goes even deeper than that. While government may have recognized marriage and offered benefits and obligations, they did so because of voluntary affiliations. Since arranged marriages have long since become a footnote in the United States history, our traditional relationships are based on these affiliations made by the two people deliberately. We even made this important characteristic part of our marriage law.

As MN Statutes 517.01 states, "Marriage, so far as its validity in law is concerned, is a civil contract between a man and a woman, to which the consent of the parties, capable in law of contracting, is essential." As far as relationship recognition is concerned, same-sex couples who want to take the leap have fulfilled the other requirements of the statute. We are consensual parties who seek a civil contract. Only our gender stands in the way of state recognition. The moral agreement already exists.



This important philosophic question must be raised. Same-sex marriage advocates aren't arguing our actual relationships as important. It is our civil right to state recognition, but they aren't addressing the real need. The other side argues there is a purpose to marriage laws and they don't think our relationships cut the mustard.

What we need to do as a community is show our legislators our relationships do exist, recognizing them does matter, and we need to do so now.

There is nothing wrong with arguing civil rights but without a compelling reason for passage it's too easy to consider it something we can do later. That is the argument the community and our allies need to make to legislators. But how can we do so in an honest, compelling, and respectful way?

I looked through my family photo album and found our relationship jumps from the pages.

I try not to get personal with this subject, though it affects me deeply. Nevertheless, I will make an exception in this case. In a week, my partner and I will be celebrating 15 years together. In that time, my nephews

and niece have known us as a couple. The youngest probably cannot recall a time when we were not. My partner is their uncle. We are together. We are part of the family and while it hasn't always been easy, we are there. For example, my brother included my partner on his wedding program as his "brother-in-law" which is a misnomer in legal terms but true in terms of the heart.

What can you do?

Pull out that picture album and see if you find the same thing. We are there, smiling back, proof of years of love and commitment. I propose we take the photographs of us and our children, if we are so blessed, and send them to our legislators. Along with those images, write a short caption of what your relationship means to you. Let them know that legal recognition of our families matters. All families are different. Our straight family members and friends can help show how we are part of what makes them special.

For these allies, it could be a picture of a dear cousin and her partner. It could be your little brother and his significant other. Perhaps you have children who are in committed relationships as real as any traditional



Brett and Randy 15 years ago. Photo courtesy of Brett Stevens



The family at Neil and Rachel's wedding. Photo by John Silker of Silker Photo

marriage. Even friends who are like family can show our elected officials we are there and our relationships have substance and meaning. It's all there in pictures

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To find your legislators, go to [www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/](http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/)

## TALKING STRATEGY WITH MINNESOTANS UNITED FOR ALL FAMILIES

by Brett Stevens

On Saturday morning, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, I got the chance to have a telephone interview with Richard Carlbom of Minnesota United for All Families to chat about strategy. I have been writing about passing same-sex relationship recognition for a couple of months and wanted to pick Carlbom's brain about what that organization is doing to drive the issue. He graciously agreed to speak with me about how the organization plans to accomplish this feat.

**Stevens: What is Minnesotans United for All Families' (MUAF) overall strategy for getting passage in the legislature this year?**

Carlbom: First off, you know the conversation that has taken place over the past two years so we are in an incredibly strong position to accomplish this in 2013. The majority in the legislature, I actually refer to them as the marriage majority. The conversation that took place over the past two years led to a pro-marriage majority today, folks who think couples should join marriage. So I'm very excited that Minnesota is in the situation where we can go from being immersed

in, what I felt as a gay man, was a very hurtful, divisive conversation but actually ended up uniting our state. If we can turn that conversation into an opportunity to do something really positive, to improve the lives of people, and to view that same-sex couples take responsibility for each other and join marriage. Very exciting.

**Stevens: MUAF has recently become a lobbyist group. You actually have lobbyists working at the capitol, isn't that correct?**

Carlbom: Yeah, oh yes. Part of the strategy here is we need a broad and robust campaign. We have community organizers who will be working throughout the state of Minnesota. We have more than 40,000 volunteers who are able to have effective conversations with friends, family, neighbors, and political leaders. So we are going to train our volunteers on how to have the most effective conversations with their legislators.

We have community organizers, a communications team that Jake Loesch heads up, including social media and online media. And kind of the third leg of the stool is a presence at the capitol. We need to make sure we have a team at the capitol that is able to provide information in terms of how to approach this issue. Different legislators will have different thoughts when it comes to this issue. It's really important for us to inform the efforts on the ground. The lobby team at the capitol will be in the position to give us information so we can answer the questions legislators have.

As for how our campaign is structured, there are some really dedicated people who are focused on making progress, basically getting this done in 2013. I'm interested in getting [it] done this legislative session at the end of May, just a few short months away. Minnesota can [then] be a place where same-sex couples can be recognized in marriage just as any straight couple would. They will have all the [same] opportunities and responsibilities.

**Stevens: Who is actually lobbying at the state capitol? Are you one of the lobbyists Richard?**

Carlbom: Well, the law that describes a lobbyist is very specific. I am registered technically as a lobbyist but I'm not doing the bulk of the work. Our lobbying team is

incredibly talented and very well-respected. It's led by Nancy Haas at the firm Messerli & Kramer. She's very talented and she has colleagues at that firm that are working with her including James Clark, Eric Hyland, and Tom Poul.

In addition to those folks from Messerli & Kramer, we also have Cristine Almeida, Larry Redmond, Todd Hill, and Jill Sletten working on behalf of same-sex couples.

**Stevens: I've written pretty extensively on the issue of rural DFL legislators having trouble voting for this; especially given they are in districts that voted for the Marriage Amendment. Is there a specific strategy you have for persuading people from these more conservative areas to vote for same-sex marriage?**

Carlbom: First off, to assume certain members are going to have a hard time voting for this because of where their district is at on the question of marriage [isn't correct]. I don't think anyone should make that assumption. There are a lot of leaders in the legislature including from districts that didn't necessarily oppose the Marriage Amendment who understand that marriage is about love, commitment, and responsibility. As leaders, they understand that the country and Minnesota is moving in the direction of a greater understanding that couples shouldn't be denied to marry the person they love. I think we are actually in a very strong position as to members of the legislature, they understand the historic nature of moving in the right direction and being on the right side of history.

We have an opportunity in 2013 to really rely on leadership to bring Minnesota forward and to bring Minnesota in the direction of greater freedom and to help secure that freedom for same-sex couples.

Second, when it comes to how voters decide who they want to vote for, and the issues that drive their vote, [same-sex marriage] actually proves to be very low on the priority list. People vote for their legislators because they want more jobs created. They want a better education system. They want health-care reform. They're concerned about either increasing or lowering taxes. Those are the reasons that actually drive the vote for an elected official. Marriage is not actually a driver at all. When you ask voters in Minnesota whether or not the marriage issue



will impact their vote for an official, in terms of priorities it's usually below the number twenty. There are more important things to voters than this issue. When people in the legislature are ready to make a decision, and consider their vote on [same-sex marriage], they understand what issues [are] driving people to vote. This isn't one of those issues.

**Stevens:** Unfortunately, that's a sword that cuts both ways. If it's not a high priority position, it's also easy to set aside.

Carl bom: I think that's true except the legislative leaders and the governor understand how important this is. They understand how impactful this is on Minnesota lives. While it may not be a driver among the electorate, the legislative leaders, legislative members, and the governor really do understand how fundamentally important this is to Minnesotans. And how incredibly impactful this will be on the lives of some Minnesotans. They take this very, very seriously and why this needs to get done in 2013.

**Stevens:** Immediately following the election, every DFL leader said 'let's stand back and take a breath.' I know some have moved forward a little, Speaker Paul Thissen has stepped up and said we need to talk about this. But Majority Leader Tom Bakk remains pretty skeptical about the whole issue. I understand what you're saying about the leadership believing it's important but I remain skeptical especially since there is not even a bill at this point. When I spoke with Sen. Marty in December, he said he was going to introduce a bill at the beginning of the session. As of today, we still don't have a bill even proposed.

Carl bom: That is because they are working with us Brett. We want to make sure we don't divide, disperse, or diffuse our energy and momentum on this. From a strategic standpoint legislatively, if we have six or seven different pieces of legislation introduced, it's going to be hard for us to get everybody to push their effort behind one piece of leg-

islation. Everyone will want to push their own. So we sat down with Sen. Marty, Rep. Hausman, Rep. Clark, and Sen. Dibble and said how can we best approach this so we get this accomplished in 2013? We agreed we'd put together a timeline. When we introduce it everyone would be united behind that one piece of legislation. I can tell you that introduction is coming in the next couple of weeks. Once introduction happens, things will occur very, very quickly.

I realize leadership talked about [how] we have to focus on the budget and we have to work on tax reform. Some have interpreted that as to just be patient. What I'd say to you Brett is rather than patient, [and] I'm not a patient person, there is a difference between being patient and being strategic. We are not being patient [by] waiting. We are being incredibly strategic. Everything we did on the campaign was driven by data, driven by research, by hard numbers, and our approach to getting this accomplished in 2013 is also very strategic. We don't want to make mistakes.

**Stevens:** I'm an optimistic person but

Continued on page 56 ➔

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**I'm also skeptical. I've watched through the course of my life—things promised but not happening. I'm not saying that about you or the organization, but that's why I'm pressing these questions.**

Carlbon: You should be. Trust me. I appreciate you are asking these questions. I appreciate you are pressing this issue. We cannot be patient about this. As a journalist, as a voice in the community, you need to do your part which is to press forward and press these questions.

**Stevens: I grew up in rural Minnesota so I kind of understand the rural DFL mindset and I'm wondering if we don't get as many DFL legislators as we'd hope, is there a strategy to persuade GOP suburban legislators to vote for this?**

Carlbon: I will say we will have rural DFLers vote for this and we will have Republicans. Part of our strategic approach is to assure rural Democrats that voting for this is an asset—not a liability—for them. They will get the support they need. We will do everything we can to get them reelected.

When it comes to Republicans, we are in a lot of conversations with Republicans. We are very excited about the support we are getting from Republicans. I predict we will have Republican votes on this. There are people you will expect and people that will surprise you. This will be a bipartisan success.

**Stevens: If we are getting into April or May, and the whips (head counters) are finding there just aren't enough votes for this to pass, are we going to still press for a vote on it?**

Carlbon: We will have a vote. We will prep for a vote but it's my belief we will have enough votes for this to pass. We are going to get a vote on this.

**Stevens: If we are not able to get this passed, would you be willing to accept something as a compromise position?**

Carlbon: No.

**Stevens: So, it's pretty much all or nothing at this point?**

Carlbon: Yeah, I'm not going to accept or even entertain on behalf of the community the idea we would officially designate

ourselves as second-class citizens. Right now, we are treated as second-class citizens because we are prevented from having the freedom to marry. Any kind of compromise outside of marriage, I believe would be officially establishing GLBT people as second-class citizens. I don't need separate but equal. I want marriage. This is very hard for me. I know couples who've been together for forty years and more and desperately want recognition. I don't believe compromise is good for our community and it's not something I'm willing to entertain.

**Stevens: What can the GLBT community and our allies do to prepare for the proposed bill?**

Carlbon: There are three things we can do.

1. Encourage readers to contact their legislators or the governor which you already do in each of your articles and I deeply appreciate. People need to hear from them. If your readers live in south Minneapolis contact them and encourage them to be champions on these issues. If they live in a suburban or rural area, they need to call and encourage their legislator to take this issue up without any delay in 2013.

2. We need readers to come to the Freedom to Marry Day at the capitol because that's where the conversation with the legislature gets underway. That's where we are sparking the conversations. It will be a very exciting event and we want people to be there. In addition, we need volunteers. If they haven't, we need them. If they volunteered last year, we need them to come back.

3. March 15 through 17, we are having One Day United. Last year we had over a hundred house parties. We need people to host house parties because it gives us an opportunity to talk with all their friends and family on how to have the best and most effective conversation with their legislators. Time is short and we need people engaged immediately.[End Interview]

Carlbon and the Minnesotans United for All Families' strategy is thoughtful and organized. Given enough support on the ground, this will be an engaged fight. However, I have three questions about Carlbon's strategy. First, legislative leadership has moved slowly since the election. Can we rely on them to extensively push this issue to the forefront? Second, Carlbon hopes ru-

ral voters have the right mix of caring and not caring about the issue to allow legislators to vote for same-sex marriage. Will that be enough? Finally, while Carlbon doesn't want to compromise, he's not the only person who has a stake in this fight. Is saying we are "second-class citizens" an empowering way forward? I'm not a second-class citizen. I have my vote, my voice, and my viewpoint to affect the world around me. If same-sex marriage legislation doesn't pass, should we settle for nothing? As Carlbon said, "As a journalist, as a voice in the community, you need to do your part which is to press forward and press these questions." I will continue to do so and so should you. □

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##### Senator Tom Bakk

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##### Representative Paul Thissen

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##### Representative Erin Murphy

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#### See also:

**"The DFL's Big Gay Farce"** from Issue 457, November 29, 2012

**"Three of Four Top Elected Minnesota Politicians Comment on the Marriage Debate"** from Issue 458, December 13, 2012

**"Earnest Money: Repeal DOMA Now"** from Issue 458, December 13, 2012

**"Why We Can't Wait" an Interview with Sen. John Marty** from Issue 460, January 10, 2013

**"Waiting for Superman"** from Issue 460, January 10, 2013

**"Don't Skip Dessert"** an Interview with Rep. Ryan Winkler from Issue 461, January 24, 2013

**"What's In A Name?" A Case for Civil Unions** from Issue 461, January 24, 2013

**"Outreach: Conversation with Rep. Andrea Kieffer (R)"** from Issue 462, February 7, 2013

**"Carrie Chapman Catt's Winning Plan"** from Issue 462, February 7, 2013



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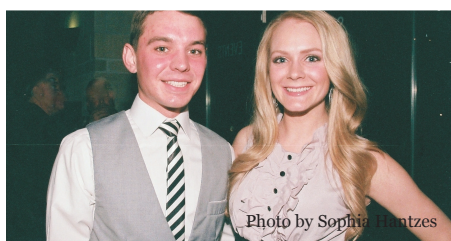


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## Tapas with Ross Sveback at the 2013 Home & Garden Show

It's the time of year when the Minneapolis Home & Garden Show rolls around—you know, the season that's a bit more cold and grey than we'd like...so we start daydreaming about when we can plant things and renovate and change up our surroundings. For inspiration, we turn to the Home & Garden Show that is taking over the Minneapolis Convention Center February 27 through March 3. Attendees can wander the displays and fill their bags with brochures and swag while watching presentations by celebrities like Todd Davis of "Design Star," Nicole Curtis of "Rehab Addict," Chef Chris Crary of "Top Chef: Texas," Sasha Andreev of "Decorating Cents" and "Curb Appeal," Rachel Kate of "Design Star," and Christopher Straub of "Project Runway."

Speaking of celebrities, our own Ross Sveback will be at the Home & Garden Show's Kitchen Stage at 4pm on Thursday, February 28, demonstrating how to make two types of delicious Spanish Tapas. Ross and his work and wares have been featured in *People Magazine* as well as on KARE11 this past month, in addition to previous attention from *VOGUE* and the *Star Tribune* as well as numerous television appearances on WGN in Chicago. You can hear his "Elevating the Everyday" podcast every Wednesday on LavenderMagazine.com, but you can also sit and watch his cooking demonstration (he's informative and so very entertaining) and enjoy some samples of his fare at the Home & Garden Show. Then, make them yourself, using these recipes.

### SOPRESSATA WITH CAULIFLOWER AND TOMATOES

Spring and summer entertaining should be easy and full of bright flavors to go along with fantastic friends or family. Ordinary cauliflower is paired here with the bold flavors of Sopressata, a spicy, dry-cured salami originating in Italy but readily available at most supermarkets today. I slice the Sopressata thinly on my mandoline, feel free to cut it any way you like. These are paired with sweet cherry tomatoes and red onions. This dish is quick to make and beautiful to look at. The key to this dish is to make it and set it out for guests to enjoy all night long as it is delicious warm or at room temperature. I like to make it in a large cast iron pan and set it out family-style for guests to nibble on.

I blanch the cauliflower beforehand (even a day before is fine, just pull it out a half hour before working with it to have it come to room temperature so as to reduce cooking time).

NOTE: This recipe calls for Sopressata, but you can use any dry-cured salami or Prosciutto, I prefer the heat Sopressata gives.

1 head cauliflower, cut into 1"-3" florets, blanched in boiling, salted water for 4 minutes

1/2 cup olive oil

2 tsp. coarse-ground black pepper

8 oz. stick Sopressata, thinly sliced

1 red onion, halved and medium sliced

16 oz. cherry tomatoes

1 cup fresh parsley, chopped

In a large skillet (I prefer cast iron), heat olive oil and black pepper until it has a sheen. Add Sopressata and fry until it browns, then add onion and sauté for five minutes. Add tomatoes and cook for a couple minutes, until skins begin to break then add cauliflower and stir gently to combine; at this point we are just trying to warm up the cauliflower. Remove from heat, sprinkle with parsley, serve, and ENJOY!

### POTATOES WITH PEPPER AND CHORIZO

This is another one of those standard dishes that I love to make to feed large crowds of people at a table. It allows me to make one big dish and enjoy the company that I have over. The potatoes are a great base for the full flavors of the jalapeños and Chorizo. I use fingerling potatoes as I like how they make the finished dish look. The green pepper and onion turn sweet. Your guests will be digging into this dish with all their fingers.

2-3 lbs. fingerling potatoes, boiled and halved

1/2 cup olive oil

2 tsp. sea salt

1 fresh jalapeños, cut into 1/2" coins

1 large yellow onion, halved and cut into

1/2" strips

2 green peppers, cored and seeded, cut into

1/2" strips

1 lb. Chorizo, chopped

1/2 cup white wine

Heat oil in a 12-inch heavy nonstick skillet over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking, then sauté jalapeños with salt, turning occasionally, until browned and just cooked through, roughly five minutes. Add Chorizo and cook until well-browned, roughly five minutes. Then add onions and green peppers until they begin to soften, then add the potatoes and cook until they begin to brown. Pour wine over dish and give it a good stir, then serve.

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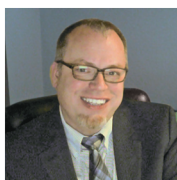
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OUR VOICES



DATELAND | Jennifer Parelo

## My Cheating Heart

I'VE BEEN cheating for almost two years. And, last week, I was finally discovered.

It was a Monday night, an evening that my girlfriend and I rarely spend together. She has her kid on Mondays at her place in the city. And I'm at home in a small resort town about 60 miles away. Or so I've led her to believe.

Actually, most Mondays, I'm in the city, too. Leading a secret life.

That life revolves around my illicit love affair with certain women. They are beautiful! Fascinating! Talented!

And many of them are dead.

They are named Ethel! Judy! Doris! Rosemary! Ella! Lena! Billie! Barbra! Bette! Liza!

Yes, I spend my Mondays in the company of hundreds of gay boys, singing showtunes as loudly and joyfully as my voice and heart can handle.

And my girlfriend knew nothing of my dirty secret until last Monday. She almost never calls me on Monday nights, because she's typically preoccupied with her son. But this past week, when I came home happily exhausted and still giddy from an evening of communal singing, I was welcomed by an answering machine (yes, I still have one) blinking its red light in near hysterics.

The first message was calm and loving. She was simply checking in and asking me to return the call. By the 6th message, her voice had escalated into a scream and she was threatening to call local hospitals. Her 12th and final message was full of accusations, paranoia, and a righteous reevaluation of our entire relationship. It ended with her saying, in weary resignation, "You're either dead or having an affair. I'm not sure which one I'm more in favor of at this point."

So, you can imagine her confusion when I finally returned her calls at midnight and made my confession.

"Is that why you always sound so hoarse

on Tuesdays?" she asked. "Why have you kept this from me?"

Because, I responded, I like to have a secret.

Like many people, I do not come by intimacy naturally. In past relationships, I'd buck violently whenever anyone got too close and would immediately begin looking for ways to destroy the connection. I rarely did this in the normal way of having an affair or escaping into a bottle. Rather, I'd turn to some weirdo pursuit like obsessive tournament bridge play or become overly involved in a fringe group devoted to rescuing baby sloths with mange. Anything to distance myself from a person who was only attempting to love me.

I tried the same tactics with this relationship. But after four years, my girlfriend—a hardy Maine girl who is not easily discouraged—managed to break me. After a lot of madly disrupting behavior on my part, I finally submitted to her caretaking and love. But I still needed an outlet—a little something on the side to remind me that I had some semblance of independence. And, so I turned to singing.

Some claim (but I don't agree!) that I have the worst voice in history—a true tragedy given my love for musical theater. But when I'm surrounded by a gaggle of frustrated gay-boy thespians, I can sing as loudly and badly as I like, confident that they're only interested in hearing their own fabulous voices soar above the crowd, and not concerned with judging mine.

"You can keep singing on Mondays," my girlfriend said. "At least it might keep you from singing in the house."

"But it was my last secret," I said.

"Did you ever think you don't need a secret anymore?" she asked. I agreed, because I knew that would make her happy. But then I got on the web and searched for a baby sloth group that needed new leadership. □



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## Datin' Satan and Writing That's Worse Than a Root Canal

### Dear Ms. Behavior:

My friend Terry met a woman online and likes her a lot. Over the past few weeks, it's practically all she can talk about. Last night she finally showed me the photo of her date. I nearly fainted because her new love—let's call her Satan—is someone I dated briefly five or six years ago. She seemed really together at first, but turned out to be a super-jealous and possessive bona fide nut job. I actually considered getting a restraining order!

Last night I was so stunned by Terry's photo that I was literally speechless. Now I'm torn: Should I tell her what this woman is really? Or should I keep my mouth shut?

- CONCERNED

### Dear Concerned:

Did you happen to save any evidence? Crazy emails? Police reports? Boiled bunnies? If so, feel free to create a Power Point presentation with a soundtrack, documenting every last detail of your ugly experience.

In the absence of incriminating material, it may be difficult to convince Terry of her new date's disastrous potential, especially during these first moments of blissful infatuation.

You can feel it out by mentioning that you once dated Satan, but it's unlikely that Terry wants to know the truth right now. You're better off stepping back and letting the ugly little drama play itself out; then, once it's all over, you and Terry can have the bonding experience that's generally reserved for people who have survived the same atrocity.

### Dear Ms. Behavior:

Barry, a dear friend, has been writing an erotic gay novel for the past year or so. My partner and I are both published writers, and Barry repeatedly made us promise that we would read his book when he finished it. I should mention that Barry's real-life occupation is dentistry—but when he turned 40 he decided that he's "as good a writer as anyone else" and needed to write a book. The problem, of course, is that while he may be proficient at filling teeth, his book is, well...not good. It's filled with clichés and stereotypes. Worse yet, the protagonist is a middle-aged man who pursues very young boys. Not my cup o' tea, to say the least.

Barry claims to want our honest feedback but if we tell him that his writing is trite and the content is nauseating, it may threaten our

friendship. Aside from this pressure regarding his novel, we do enjoy Barry's company. What would you suggest?

-BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD-ON

### Dear Between a Rock and a Hard-On:

It's awkward to be asked to offer an opinion on a friend's art, because a request for your "honest opinion" is often really just a request for praise.

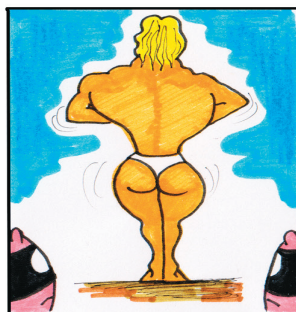
First, let's consider the downside of being honest: You might hurt Barry's feelings and perhaps even harm the friendship.

However, if you are honest, Barry probably won't inflict his writing on you anymore, which means that you can wipe the cliché sentences and the disturbing images from your mind with the hope that they won't come back. Perhaps he will take the opportunity to get some help, i.e., writing lessons. And, once you express your feelings, your nausea will probably go away.

All things considered, it seems like telling the truth is the way to go. □

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TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA



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# The Truth About Gay Bars

“MOST OF what matters in our lives takes place in our absence.” So opens Salman Rushdie in his novel *Midnight’s Children*.

Rushdie intended the statement to serve as a reflection on how we come into the world. Having been absent from world history until in it we are born, we’ve had no chance, yet, to have any impact. We’ve had no say in the matter of how we came to be, nor under what circumstances our childhood will unfold. We thus come into the world unburdened, but imprisoned.

I take the thought into our community, and into our bars, clubs, parties, social circles. I see us today, silently judging those around us because they are too fat, too poor, too ugly, too stupid, and, ironically, too gossipy.

The GLBT social world was born out of a longing to feel at home, to be present in life, comfortable and accepted. And it took us a long time to arrive where we were when the first gay bars opened—we then were brave enough to build our home, to build social circles, to create our own solidarity, to have a safe haven where what mattered had nothing to do with the color of our skin, our sexuality, our gender, or our aspiration. Gay bars were where we went to show that we were a family; where what mattered most was our heart, our openness, our strength. Where what brought us together were our hopes, our dreams, our

bravery, our courage.

But since the first gay bars enshrined in them this sense of unity, the patrons have changed. Those who appreciated, created, and cultivated our social scene—who marched in the first of our parades and who saw their friends fade away from the disease that still plagues our community—are, at ever-increasing speed, being replaced by a generation (to which I am part) that maybe holds an increasingly different set of values.

Walk now into any gay bar and find yourself subject to ridicule, sometimes innocuous, oftentimes hurtful. Find in gay bars people for whom vanity and materialism are tops. Find what we call “drama” and “shade.” Find here a sense, more so than ever before, a sense that we aren’t welcome unless we fit the profile of who we “should” be.

Where once there stood a safe haven, we find now a place of heightened insecurity, where hurt feelings feed on themselves to create more gossip and pain.

Here, we are bullies to our own.

In our absence from the past, appreciation of progress decays. Our community, strong though it is to the outside, trembles now under itself, forgetful-absent-on issues we once faced.

We rally today behind wonderful, empowering causes when our community is in

peril. We show power in our yearly marches through our cities. We have always held these public displays sacred. But our community isn’t based on annual events. Nor should we await crises for us to assimilate.

We should feel at home always with our brothers and sisters, unabashedly unafraid—and welcomed—in the places we built together. Gay bars were meant to build a sense of community and to serve as homes for diversity and inclusion, not for drama or judgment.

I visit gay bars today infrequently for this reason. Where people tear each other down is a place I’d like not to visit. And isn’t it sad that I (and maybe you) feel more at home at straight bars than gay ones?

Think about this the next time you’re out and have an urge to whisper to your friends about how fat someone is, how poor they are, how laughably alone they are. Instead of making someone feel deviant and unwelcome, think about smiling (or, \*gasp\*, saying hello) rather than shutting him off. “They” are like you: trying to fit in. Hoping for friends. Hoping for conversation. They are at this bar, dear reader, and listen very carefully—they are here to find a sense of solidarity, which, at your core, is what you’re after, too. ■

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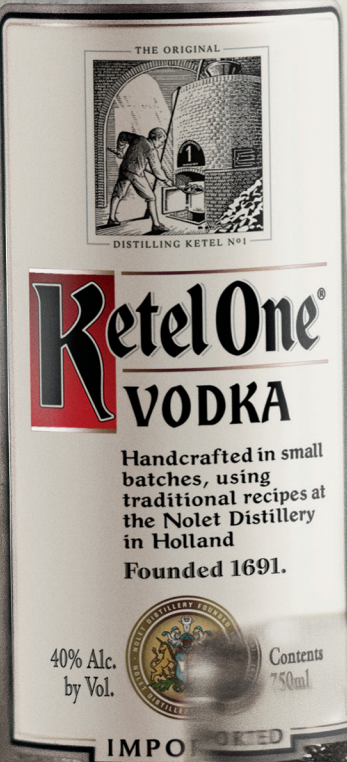
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